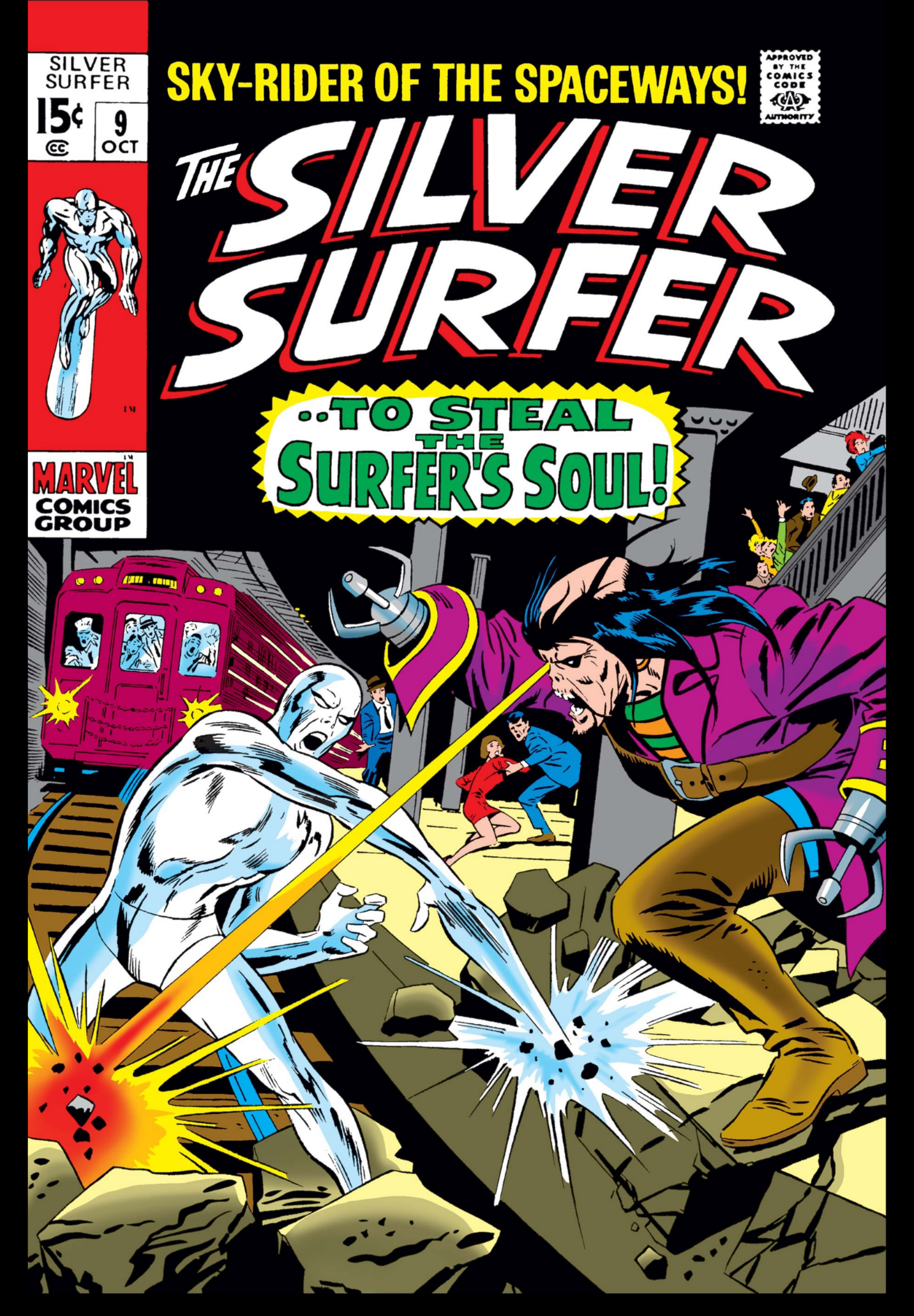
SILVER SURFER
15¢
9 OCT
SKY-RIDER OF THE SPACEWAYS!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE SILVER SURFER
..TO STEAL THE SURFER'S SOUL!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP

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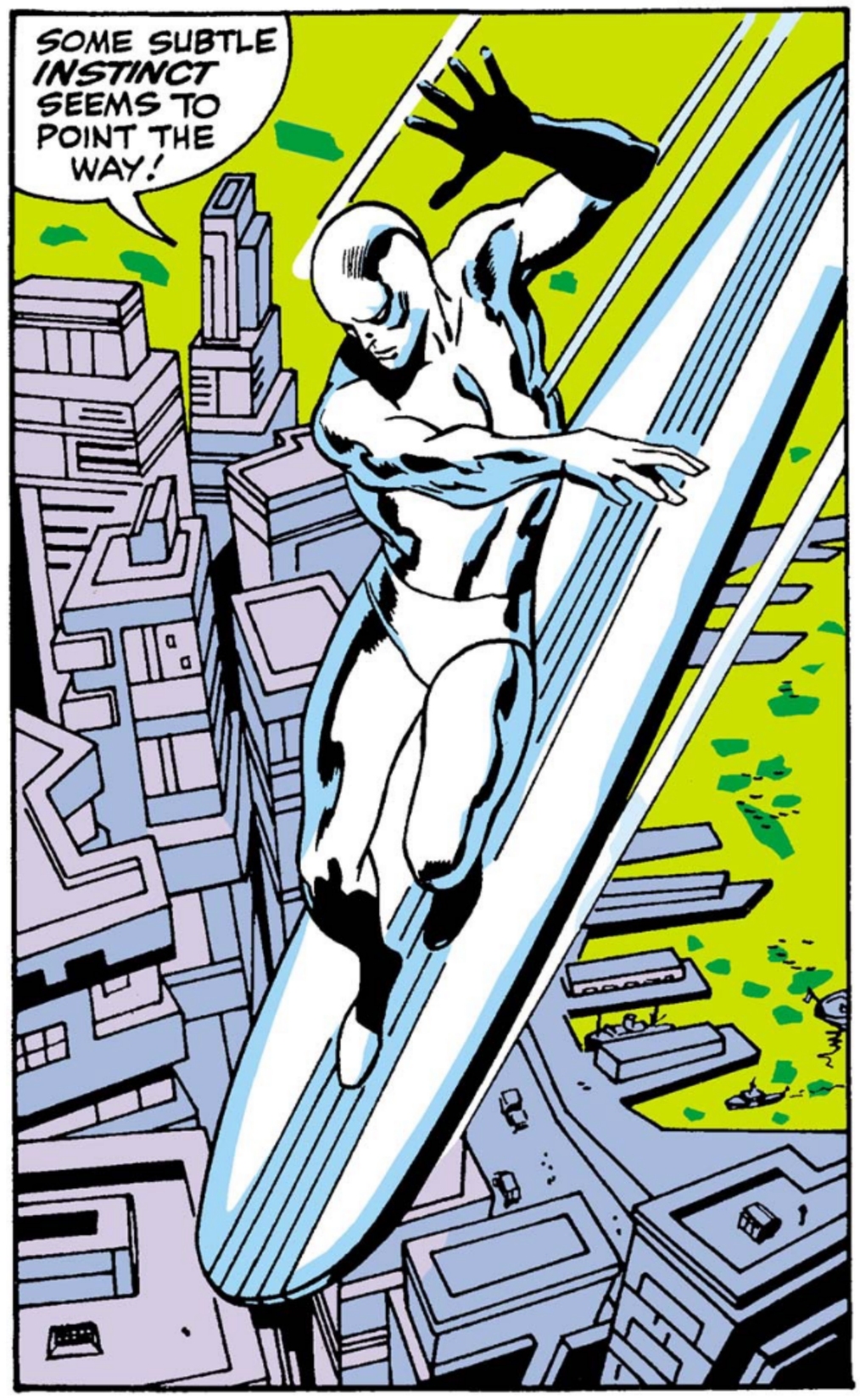
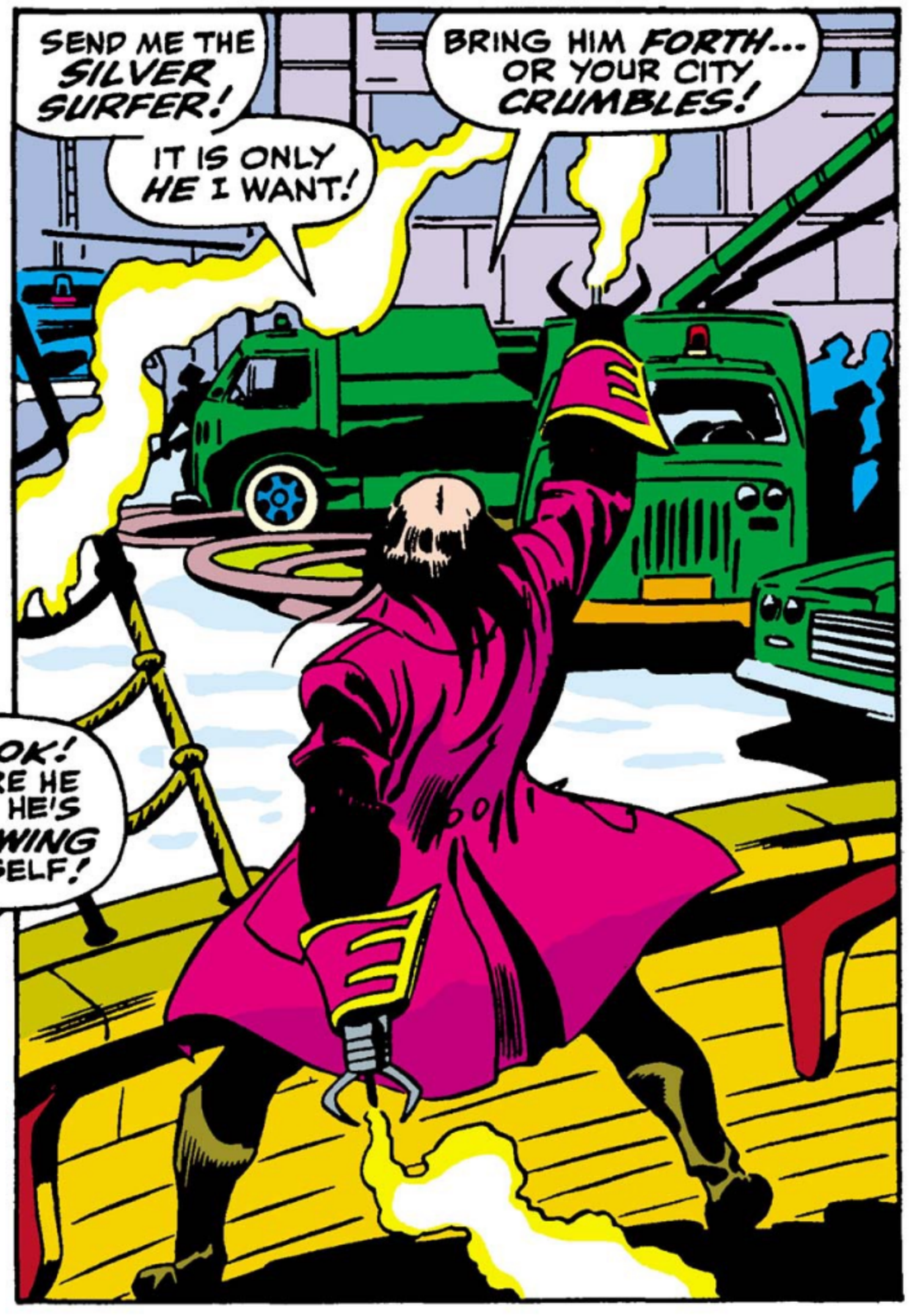
THE ONE I SEEK HAS NOT YET APPEARED!
MEPHISTO DOES NOT INTEND TO WAIT!

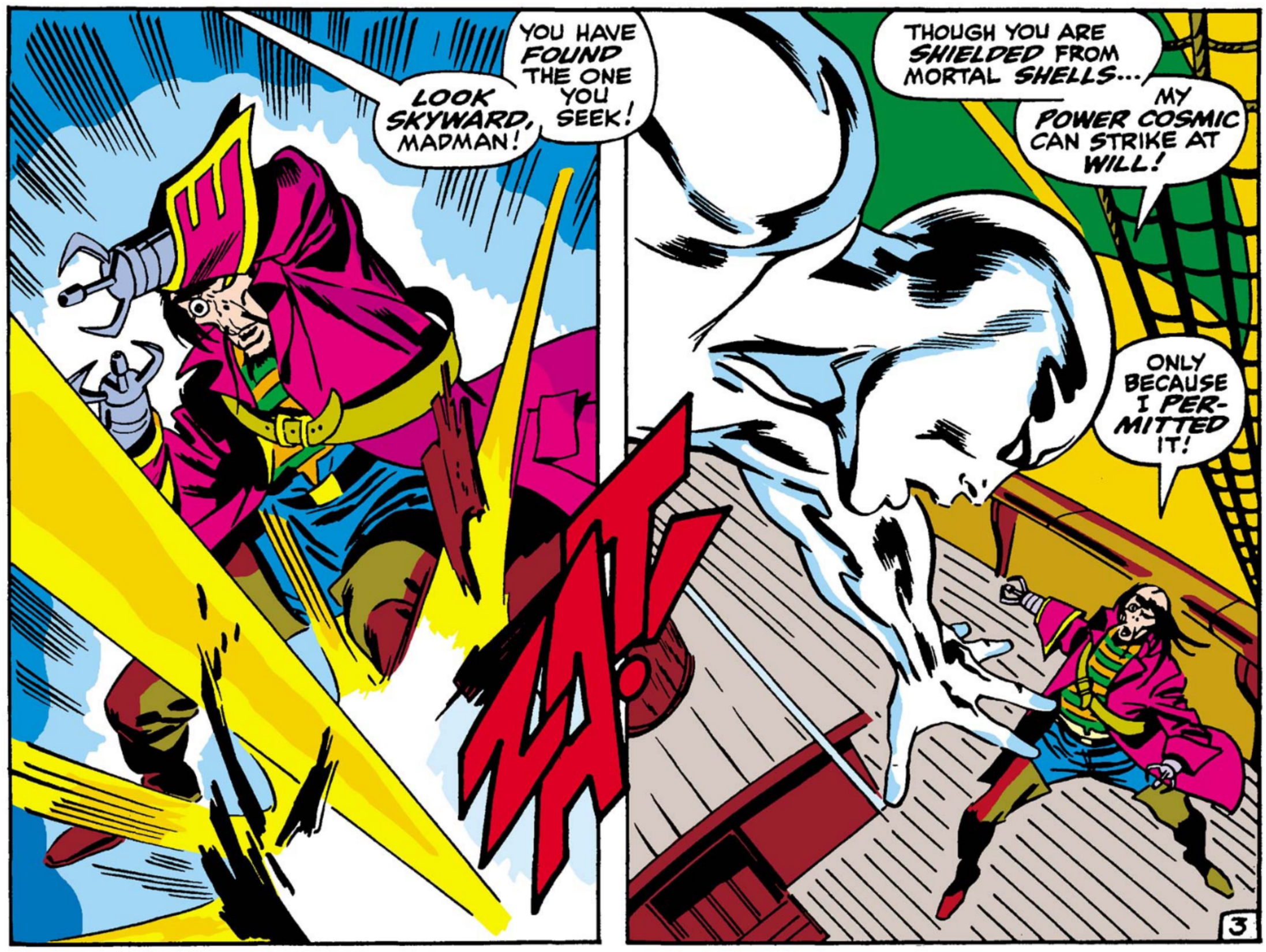
I SENSE DISASTER ON EARTH BELOW ME!
I SHALL PROD HIM FROM THE NETHER-WORLD!


SOME SUBTLE INSTINCT SEEMS TO POINT THE WAY!

THROW A CORDON AROUND THE SHIP!
AND KEEP THE CROWDS BACK!
WHOEVER'S ABOARD THAT THING HASN'T SHOWN HIMSELF YET!
P.D
EMEI
HE WILL ---WHEN WE START SHOOTING!
2

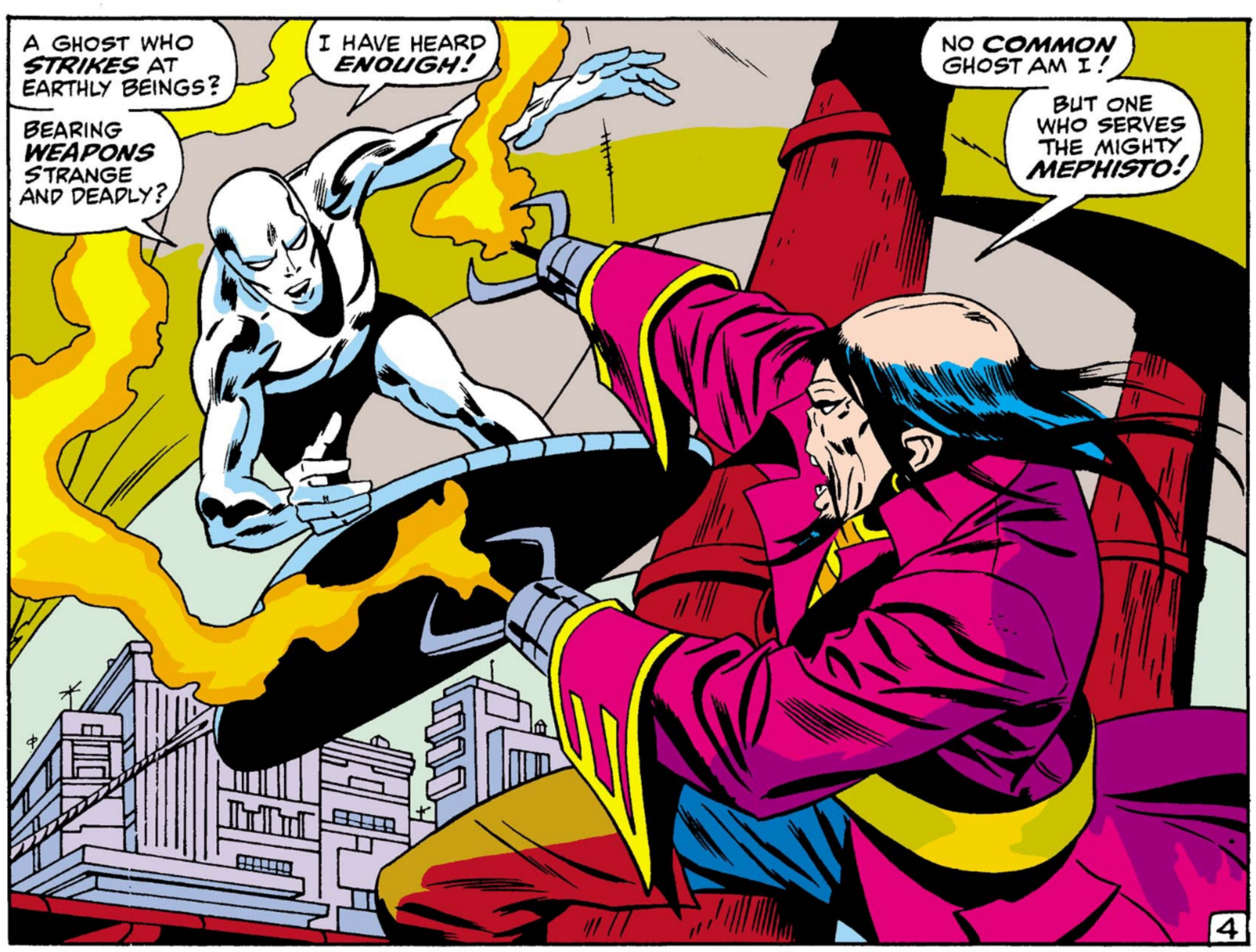
ALL RIGHT, MEN... FIRE A BURST... TO LET 'IM KNOW WE MEAN BUSINESS!
IT'S NO GOOD! THE SHELLS ARE BOUNCING OFF!
IT'S LIKE SOME KINDA FORCE FIELD PROTECTING THE SHIP!
LOOK! THERE HE IS! HE'S SHOWING HIMSELF!


SEND ME THE SILVER SURFER!
IT IS ONLY HE I WANT!
BRING HIM FORTH... OR YOUR CITY CRUMBLES!

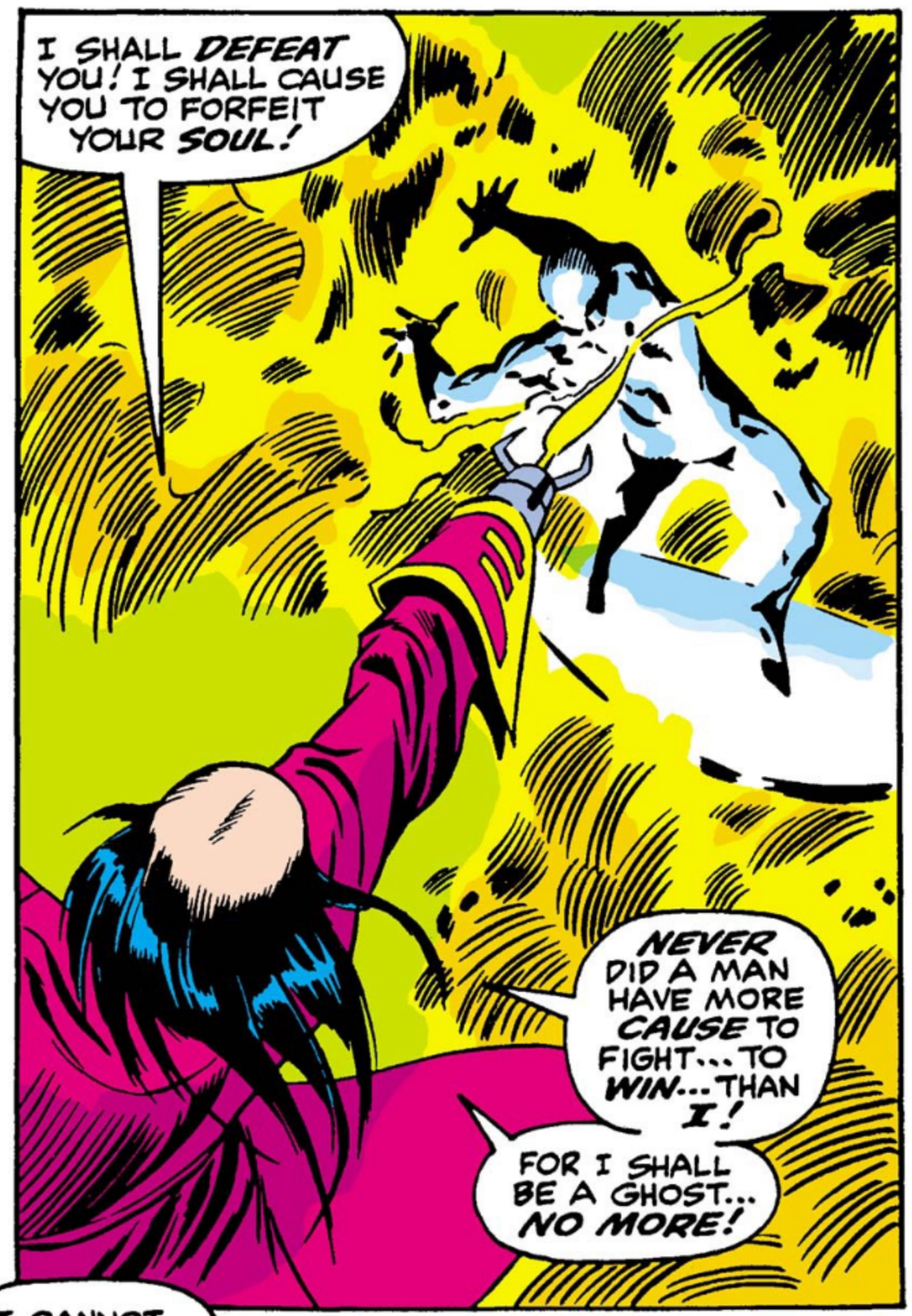

LOOK SKYWARD, MADMAN!
YOU HAVE FOUND THE ONE YOU SEEK!
ZA!
THOUGH YOU ARE SHIELDED FROM MORTAL SHELLS...
MY POWER COSMIC CAN STRIKE AT WILL!
ONLY BECAUSE I PERMITTED IT!
3

NOW THAT I HAVE TRAPPED YOU... MY WORK IS NEARLY DONE!
SOON THE FLYING DUTCHMAN SHALL FIND THE SLEEP SO LONG DENIED HIM!

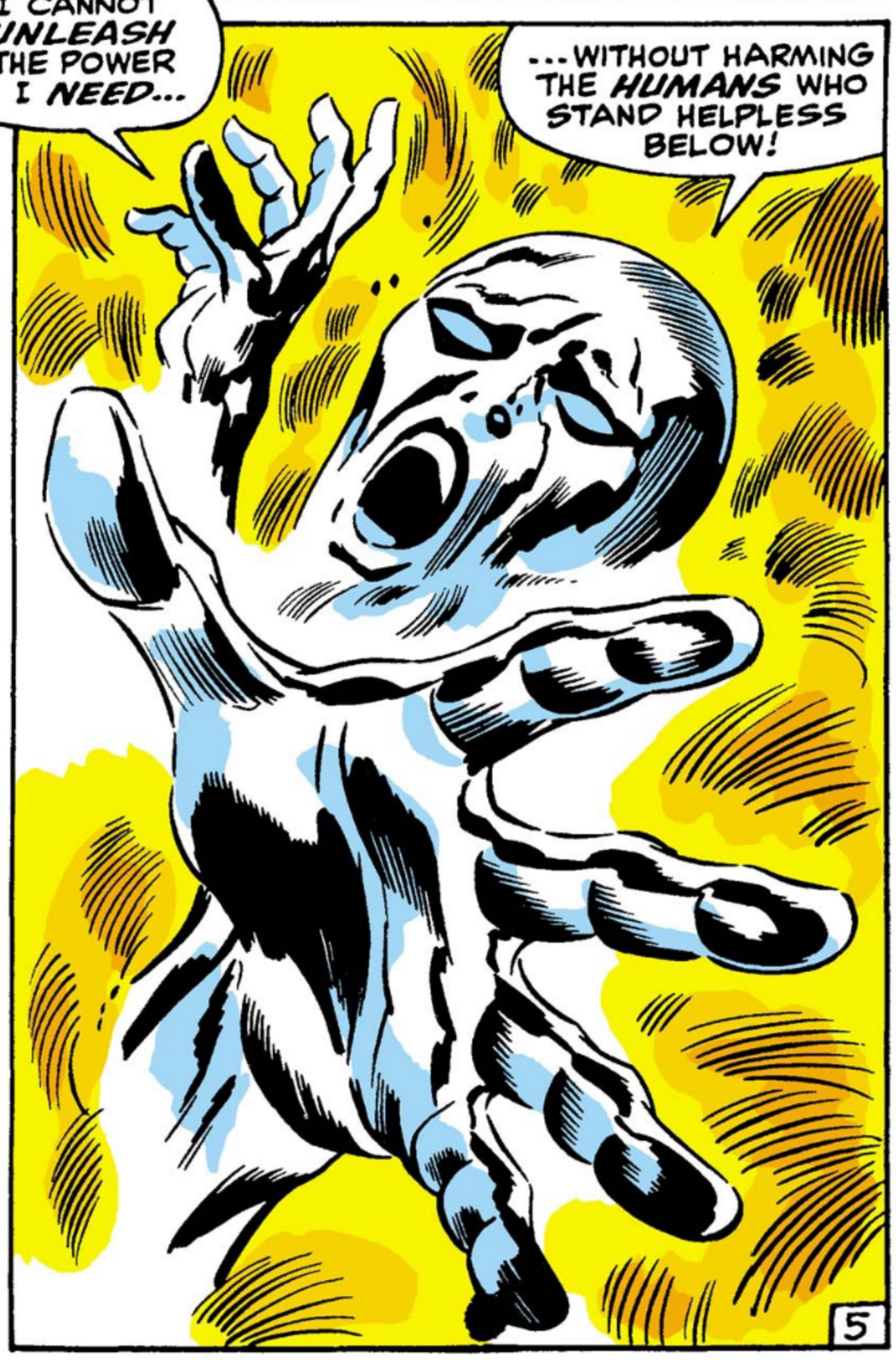
THE FLYING DUTCHMAN?!!
BUT...IT CANNOT BE! YOU ARE BUT A GRIM AND GHASTLY LEGEND!
THE LEGEND OF ONE WHO IS... LONG SINCE DEAD!
AND SO I AM! FOR IT IS THE LEGEND OF... A GHOST!

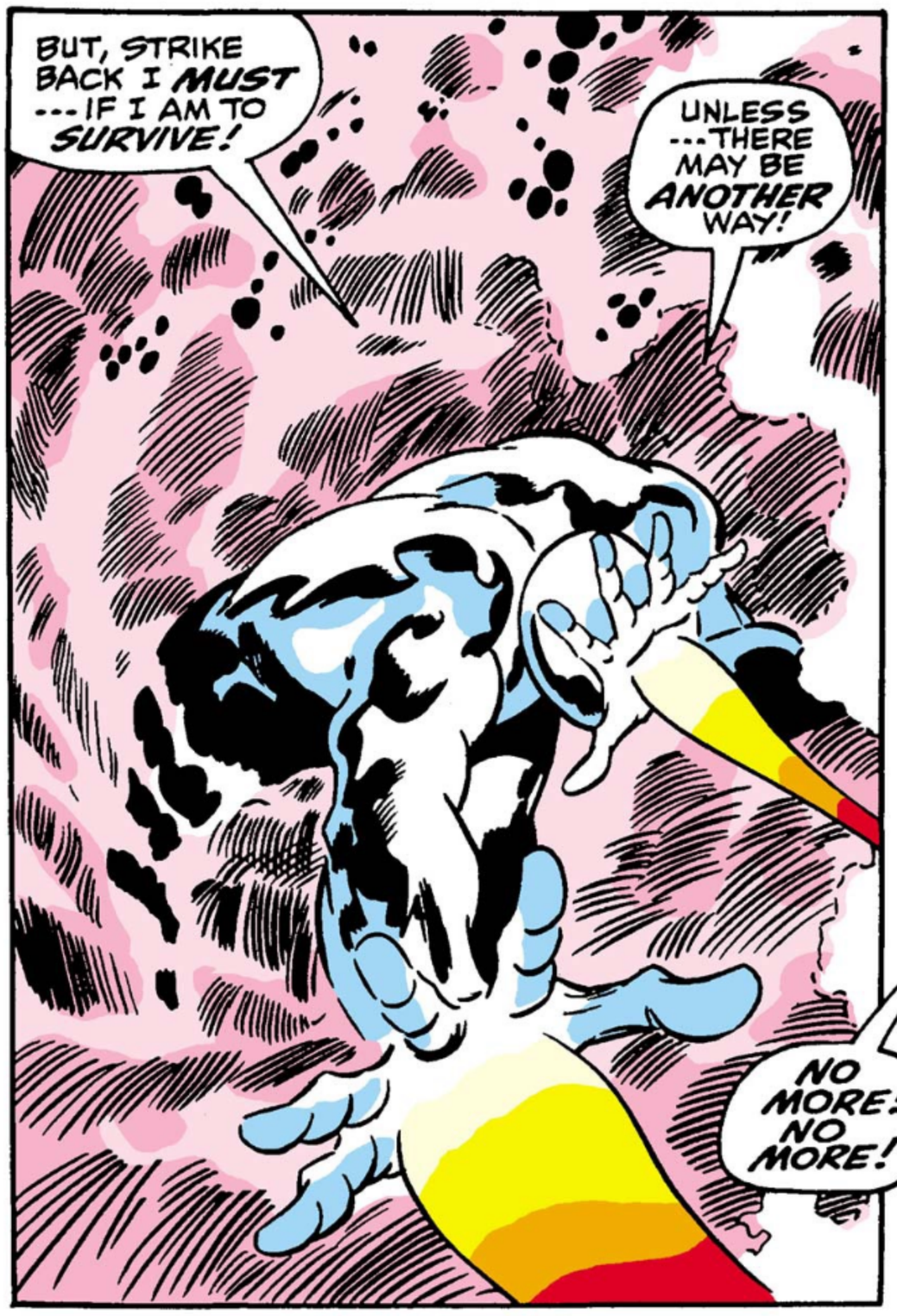

A GHOST WHO STRIKES AT EARTHLY BEINGS?
BEARING WEAPONS STRANGE AND DEADLY?
I HAVE HEARD ENOUGH!
NO COMMON GHOST AM I!
BUT ONE WHO SERVES THE MIGHTY MEPHISTO!
4

THEN THAT WAS THE SMELL OF FIRE AND BRIM... UNHHH!
NOW YOU SHALL SEE WHAT A GHOST CAN DO!

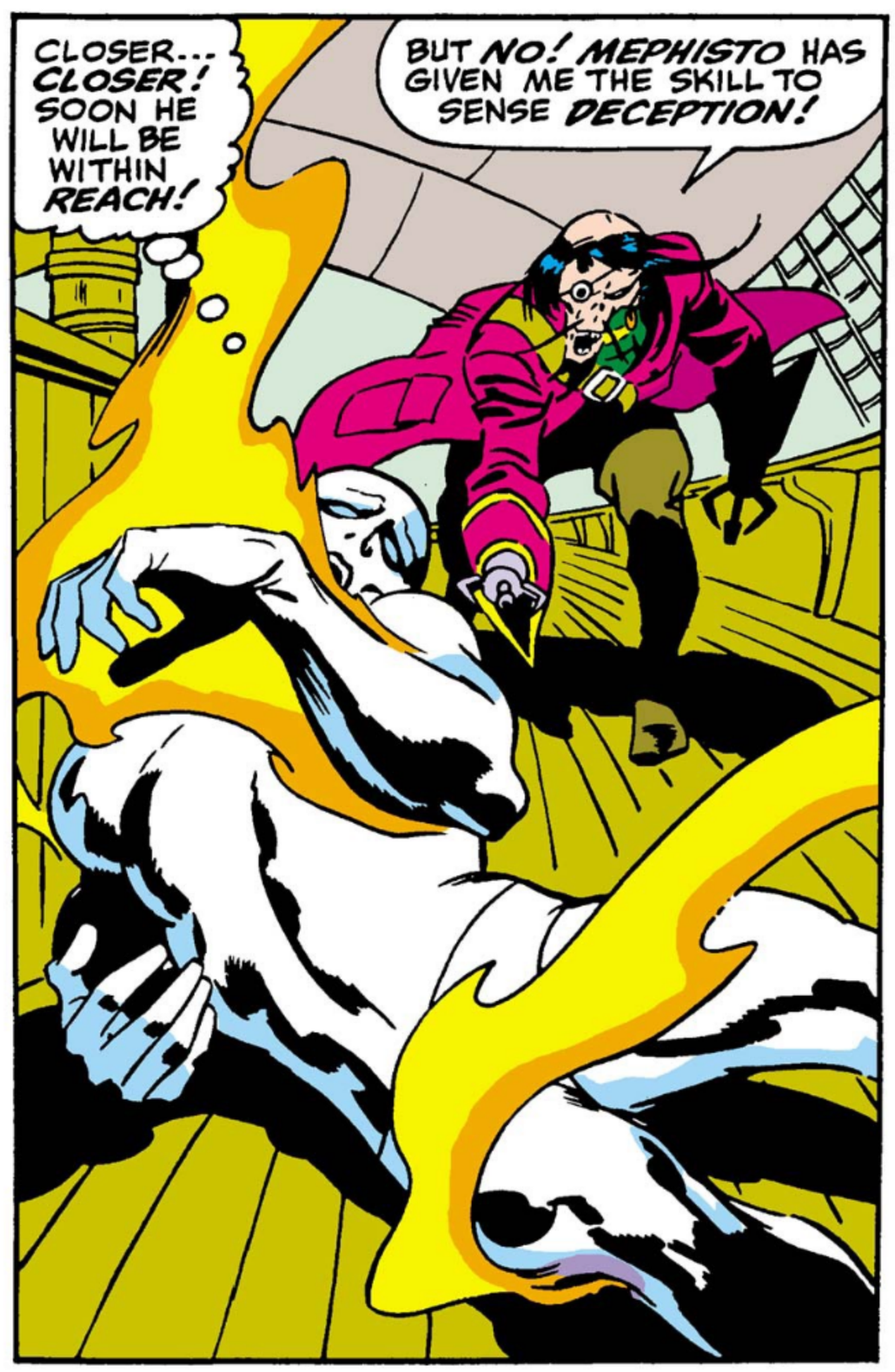

I SHALL DEFEAT YOU! I SHALL CAUSE YOU TO FORFEIT YOUR SOUL!
NEVER DID A MAN HAVE MORE CAUSE TO FIGHT... TO WIN... THAN I!
FOR I SHALL BE A GHOST... NO MORE!

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, BILL?
I'LL BET IF WE COULD HEAR WHAT THEY'RE SAYIN'...
...WE WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT!

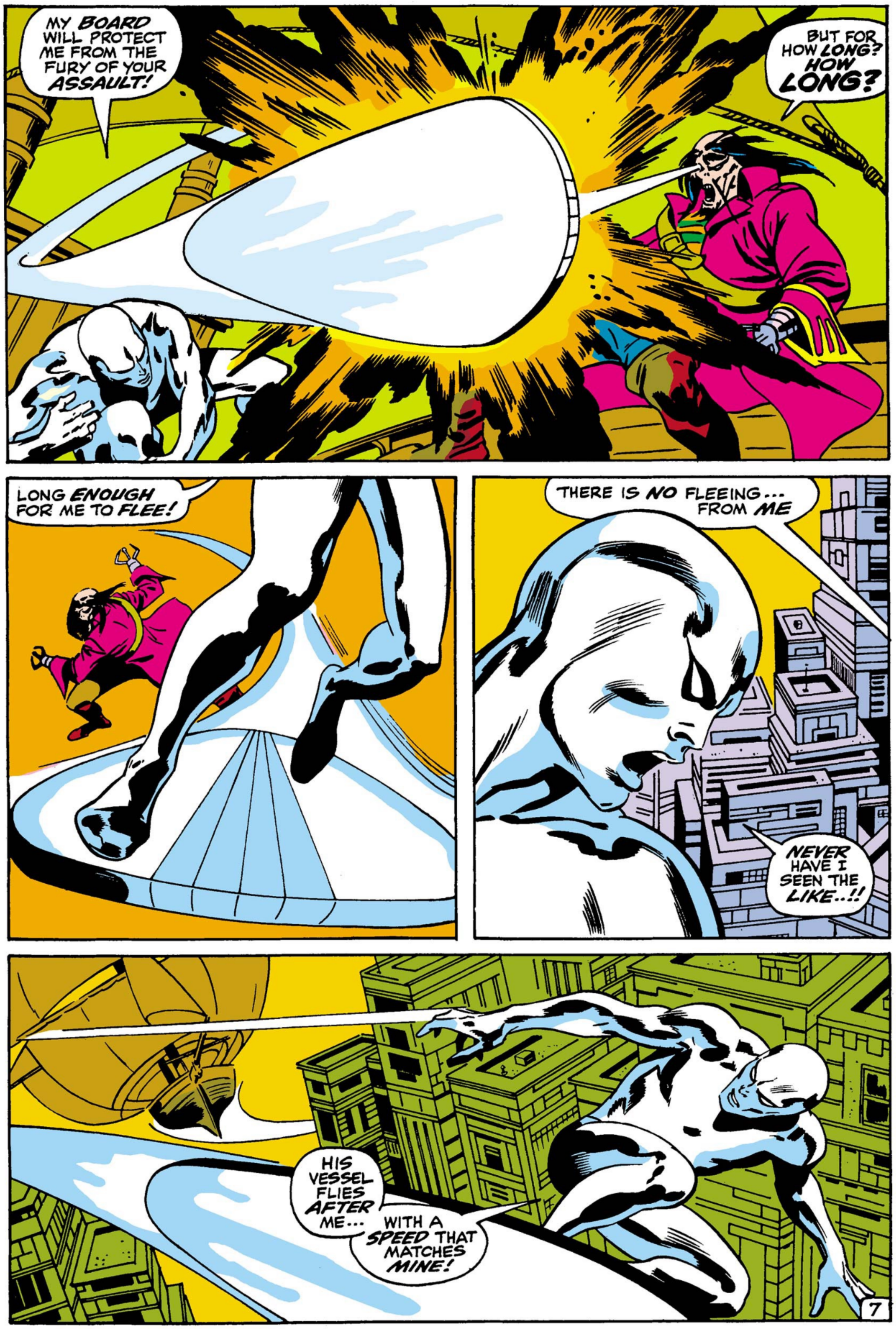

I CANNOT UNLEASH THE POWER I NEED...
...WITHOUT HARMING THE HUMANS WHO STAND HELPLESS BELOW!

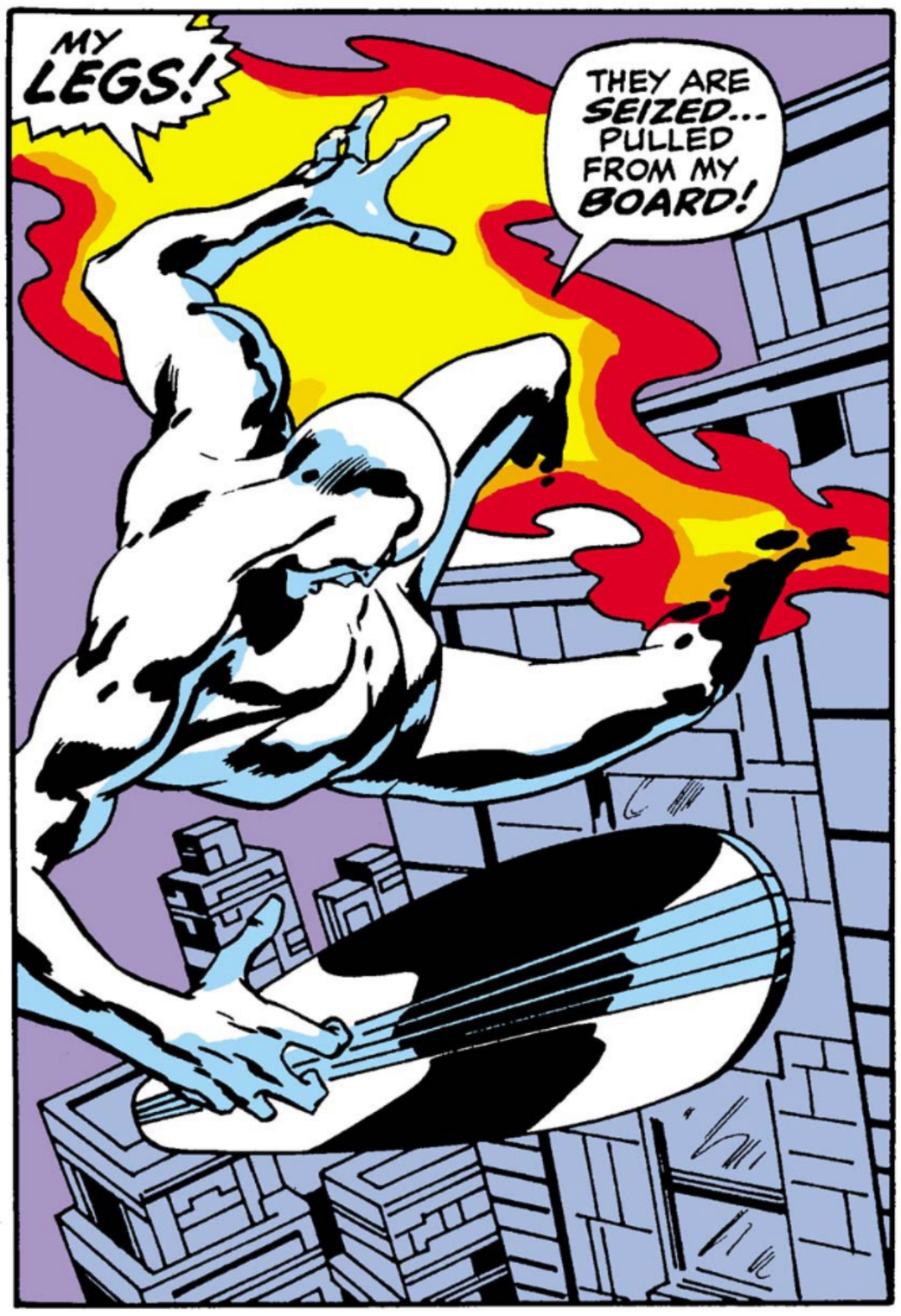

BUT, STRIKE BACK I MUST ---IF I AM TO SURVIVE!
UNLESS ---THERE MAY BE ANOTHER WAY!
NO MORE! NO MORE!

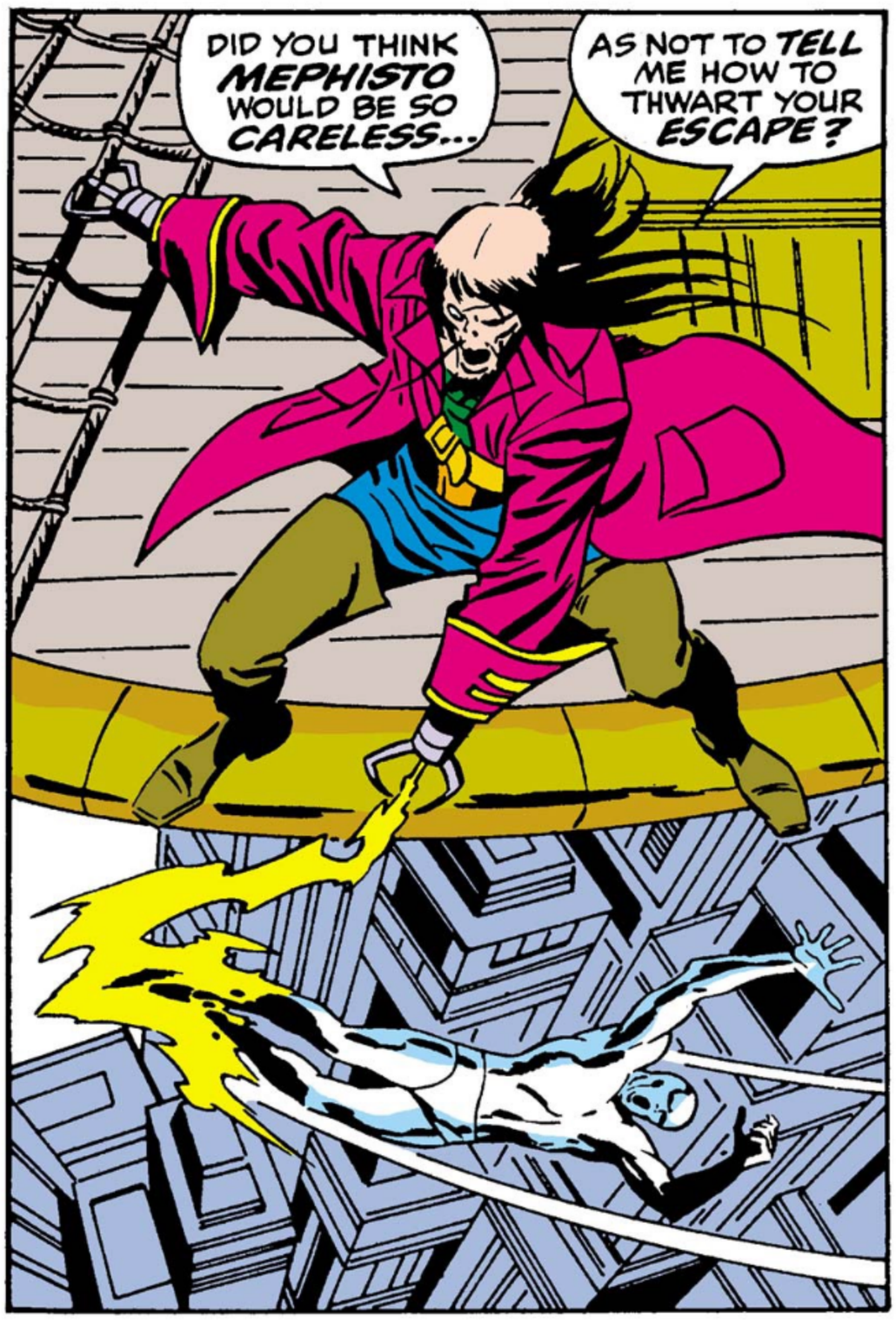
MY VICTORY IS EASIER BY FAR THAN I DARED TO HOPE!

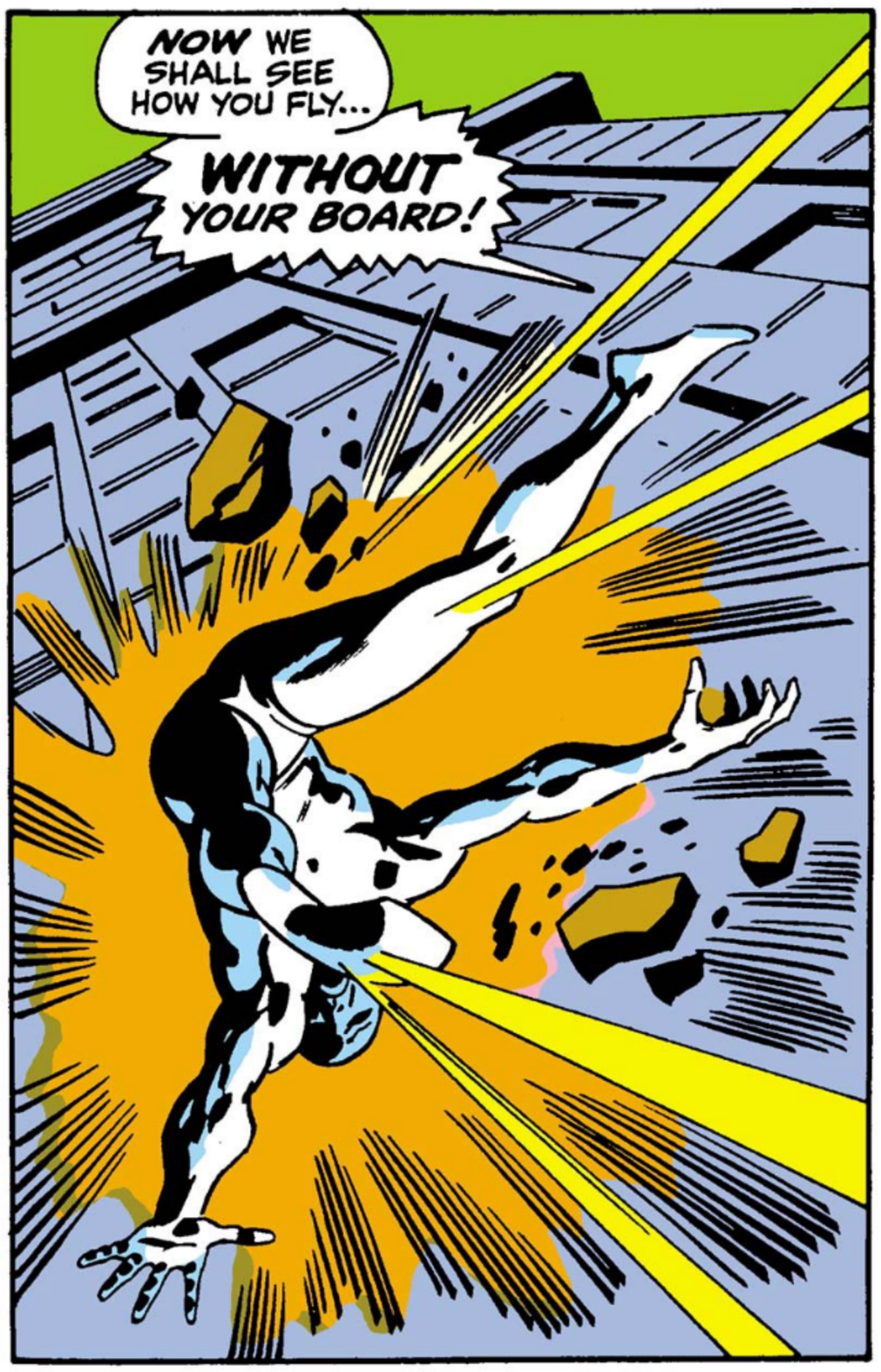

CLOSER... CLOSER! SOON HE WILL BE WITHIN REACH!
BUT NO! MEPHISTO HAS GIVEN ME THE SKILL TO SENSE DECEPTION!

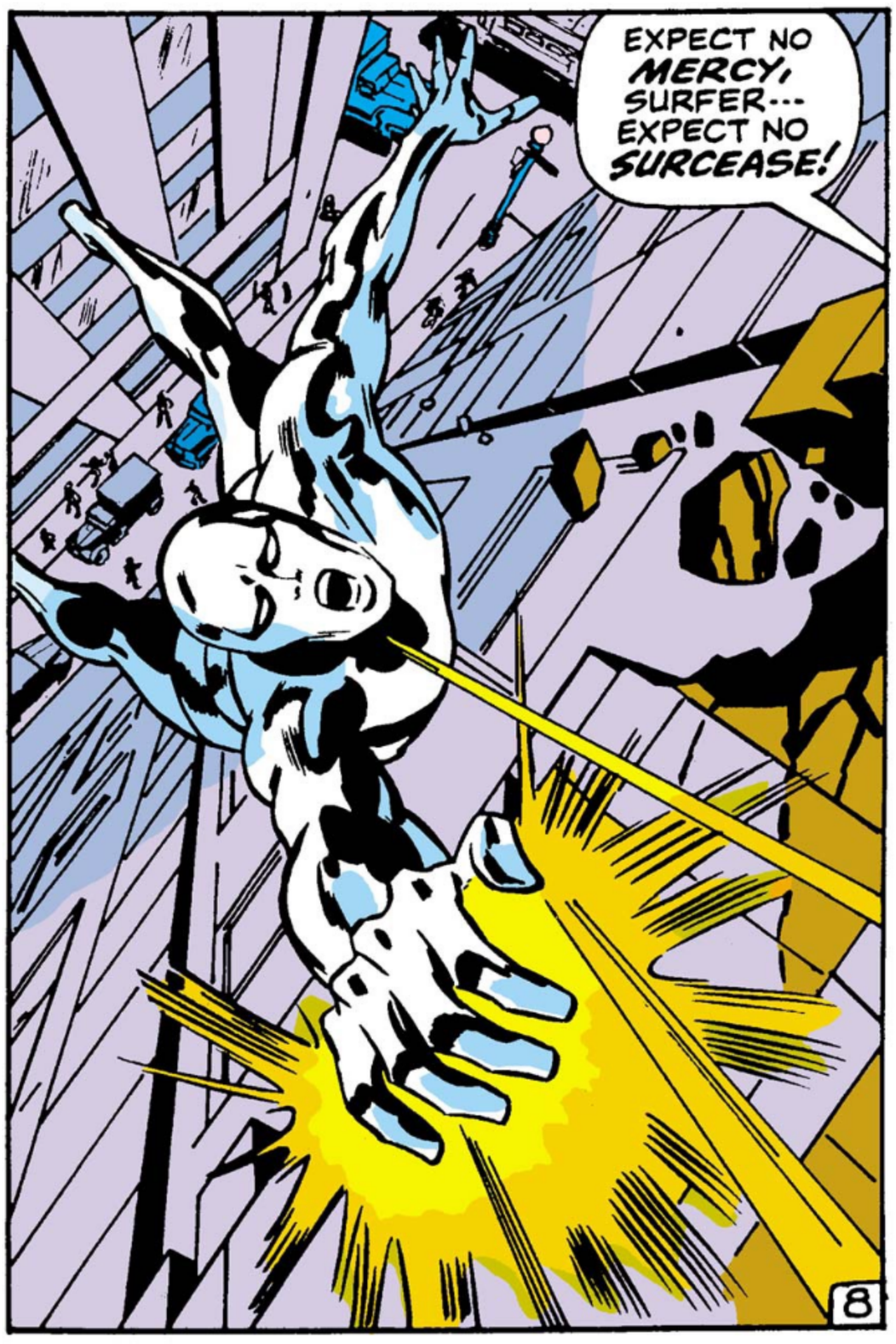
YOU SOUGHT TO TRAP ME! AND, FOR THAT...
YOU NOW MUST PAY THE PRICE..!

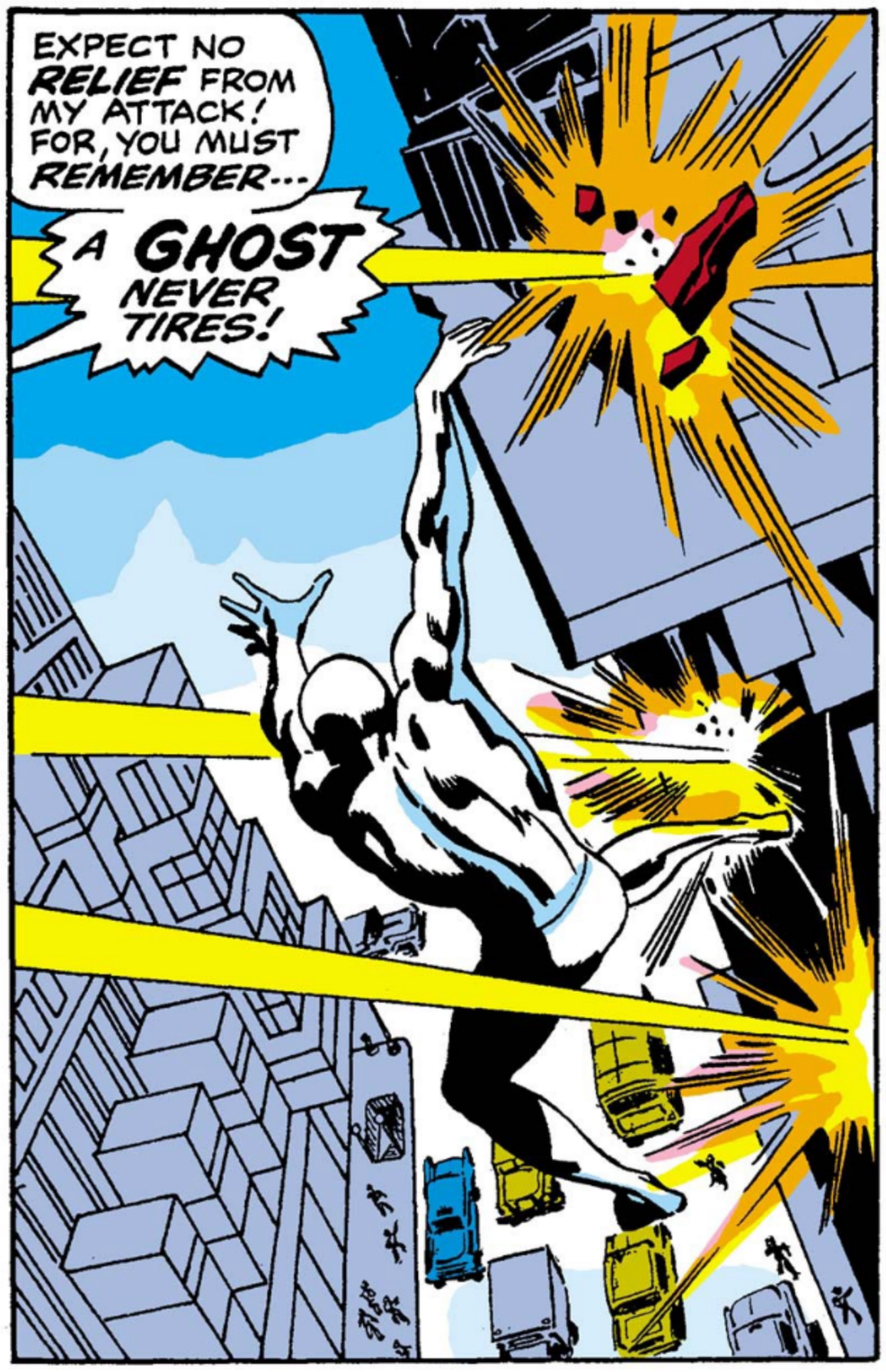

MY BOARD WILL PROTECT ME FROM THE FURY OF YOUR ASSAULT!
BUT FOR HOW LONG? HOW LONG?
LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO FLEE!
THERE IS NO FLEEING... FROM ME
NEVER HAVE I SEEN THE LIKE...!!
HIS VESSEL FLIES AFTER ME...
WITH A SPEED THAT MATCHES MINE!
7


MY LEGS!
THEY ARE SEIZED... PULLED FROM MY BOARD!


DID YOU THINK MEPHISTO WOULD BE SO CARELESS...
AS NOT TO TELL ME HOW TO THWART YOUR ESCAPE?


NOW WE SHALL SEE HOW YOU FLY...
WITHOUT YOUR BOARD!


EXPECT NO MERCY, SURFER--- EXPECT NO SURCEASE!


EXPECT NO RELIEF FROM MY ATTACK! FOR, YOU MUST REMEMBER...
A GHOST NEVER TIRES!

PHZAMM!
AND THE SURFER NEVER SURRENDERS!

THEN FIGHT ON... TILL THE END!
TIME HAS NO MEANING TO ONE SUCH AS I!
EVEN AS YOUR BOARD NOW STREAKS TO SAVE YOU, REMEMBER THIS...
...NOT EVEN YOU CAN HARM A GHOST... OR THE GHOSTLY VESSEL THAT CARRIES HIM!

THE SURFER SOON MUST FALL!
AND, WHEN THAT GLORIOUS MOMENT COMES... MEPHISTO MUST BE PRESENT!

NEVER HAVE I AWAITED A HUMAN SOUL WITH SUCH STYGIAN LONGING!

NEVER HAVE I SO CRAVED A VICTORY OVER ONE MERE MORTAL BEING!

I CAN CONTAIN MYSELF NO LONGER!
I MUST HASTEN TO THE WORLD ABOVE!
...TO CLAIM THE GREATEST PRIZE OF ALL!

HOLY SMOKE! THE WHOLE TOWN'S GOIN' BANANAS!
NOW WHAT'S THAT?
A SUDDEN BURST OF SMOKE... POPPING UP FROM... NOWHERE!
THAT ODOR! THE SICKENING STENCH OF ...FIRE AND BRIMSTONE!

LOOK!
THUS MEPHISTO STRIDES THE EARTH ONCE MORE!

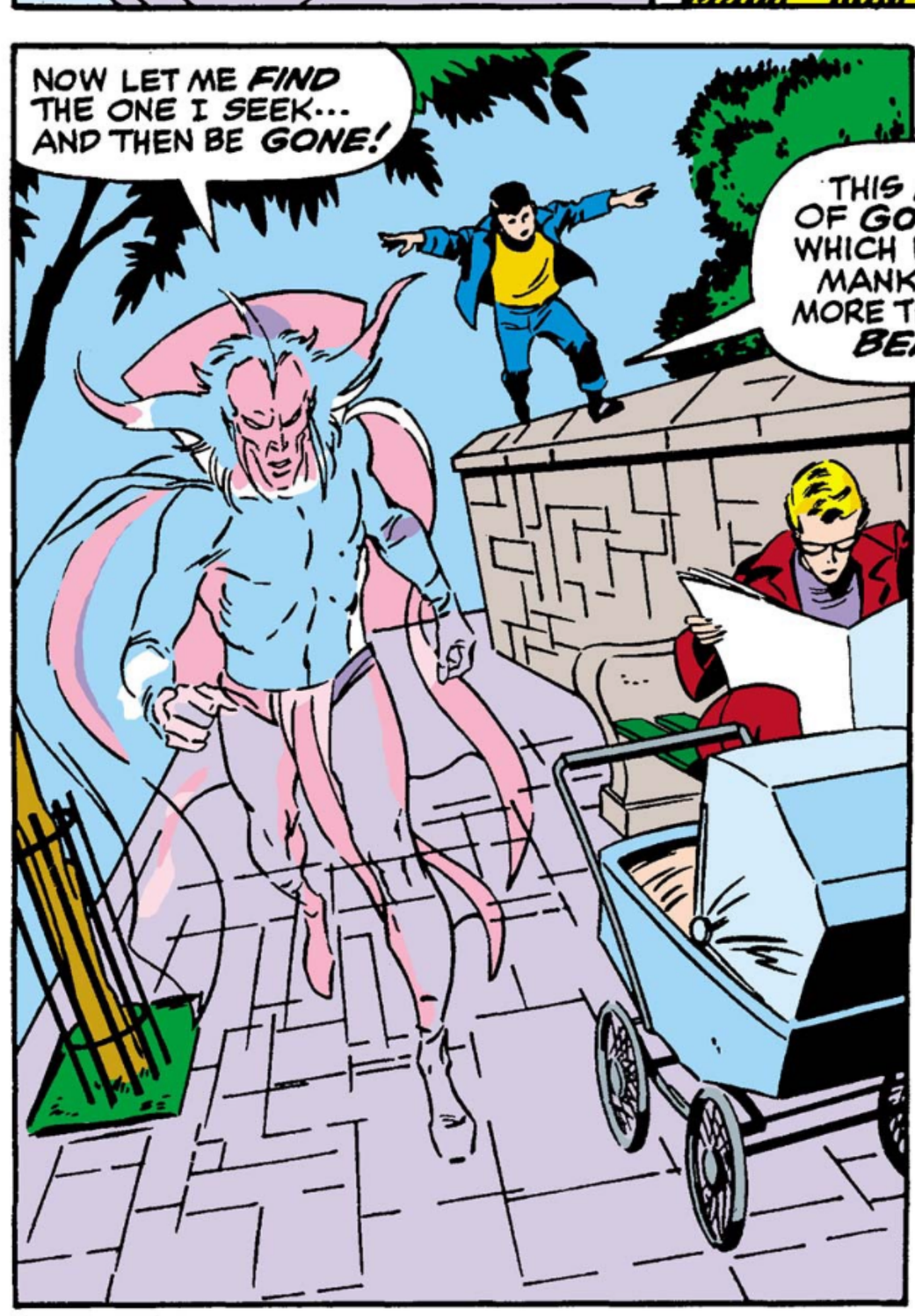
LOOK, MAC... I DON'T KNOW HOW YA DID THAT... OR WHAT YOUR ANGLE IS... BUT IF YOU THINK...
SILENCE, MORTAL!

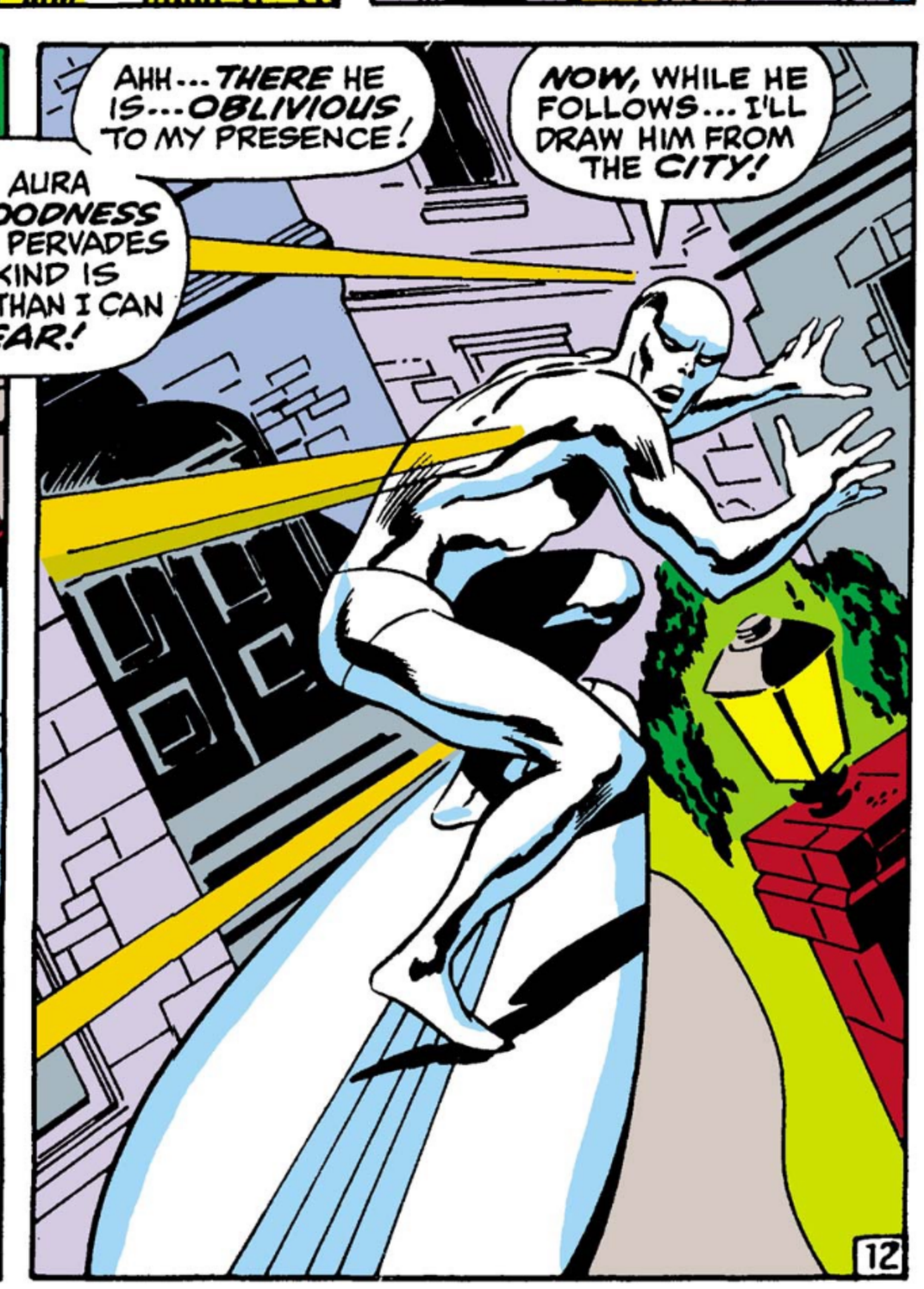
NONE MAY RAISE HIS VOICE TO THE LORD OF THE LOWER DEPTHS!

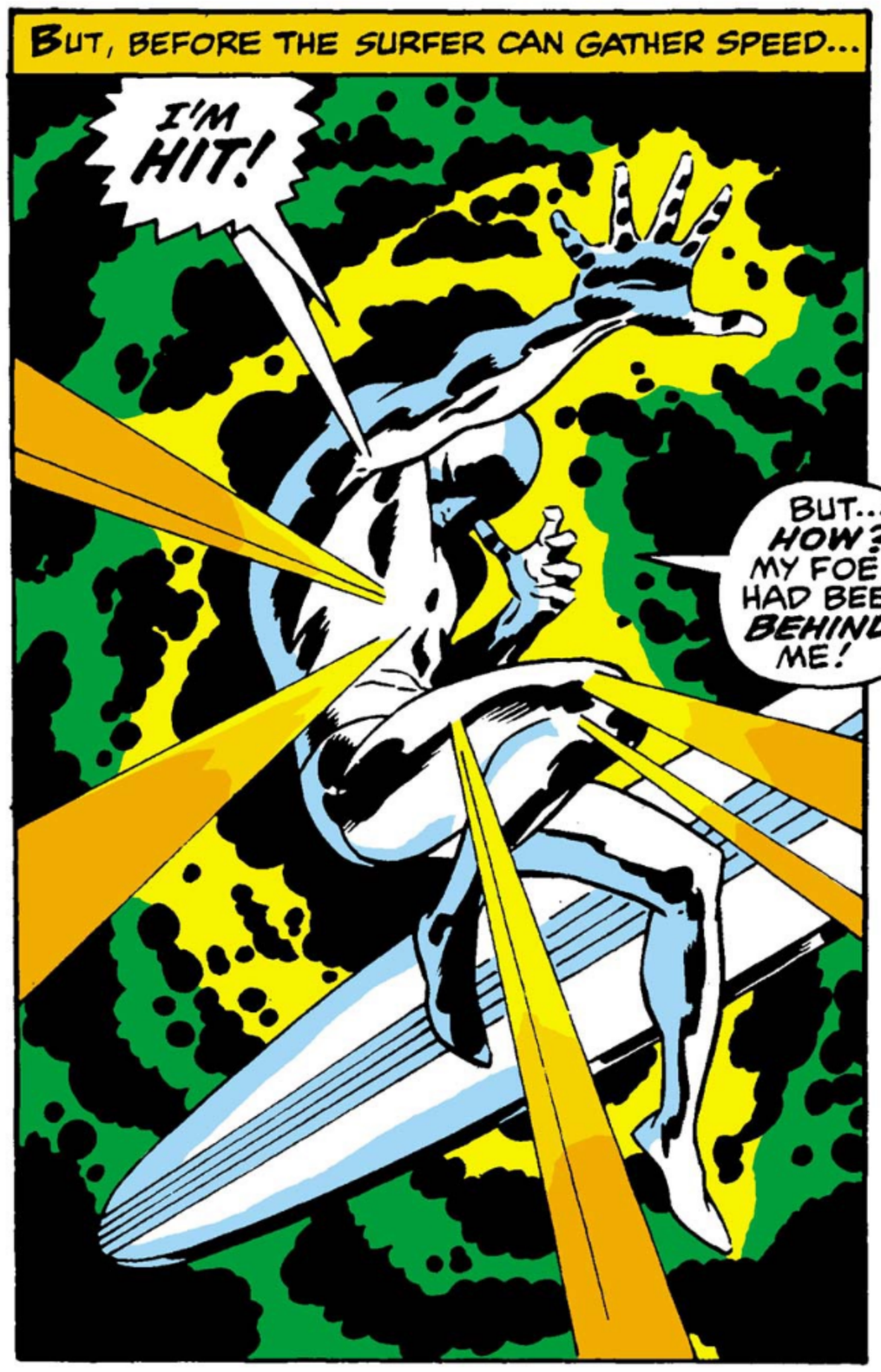
BUT WHY DO I OCCUPY MYSELF WITH CALLOW HUMANS!
DOES THE LION PAY HEED TO THE MOUTHINGS OF ANTS?

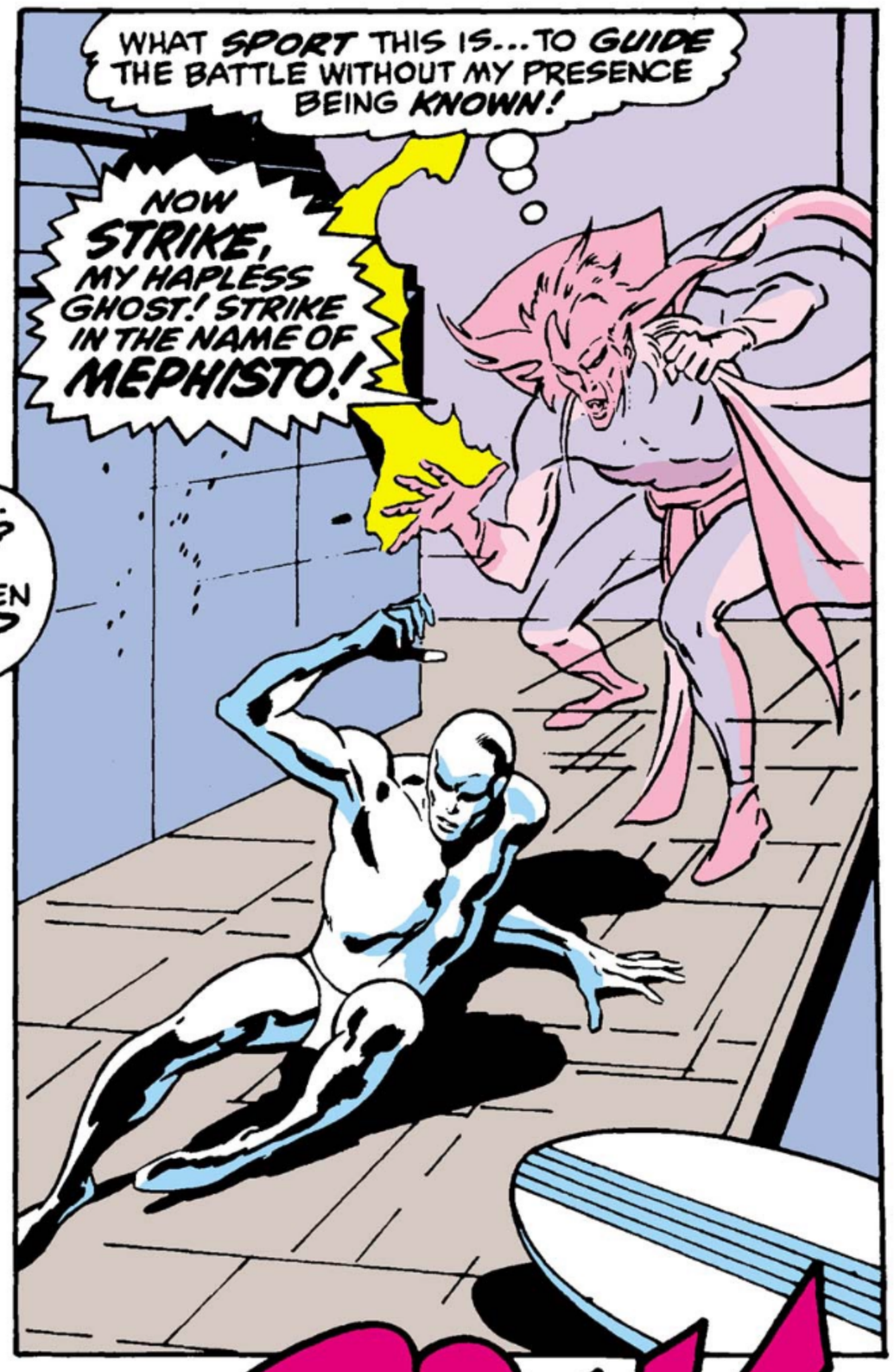
SINCE TO ME YOU ARE LESS THAN NOTHING...
YOU ARE NOT WORTHY TO BEHOLD MY VISAGE...TO ATTEND MY WORDS!
THUS, I SHALL BE BEYOND YOUR SIGHT...BEYOND YOUR RECENT MEMORY!

ANOTHER FEW MINUTES AND I GO OFF DUTY!
WONDER WHAT MARTHA HAS FOR DINNER?
TAXI! TAXI!
LOOK AT THAT DARLING DRESS IN THE WINDOW!


NOW LET ME FIND THE ONE I SEEK... AND THEN BE GONE!
THIS AURA OF GOODNESS WHICH PERVADES MANKIND IS MORE THAN I CAN BEAR!

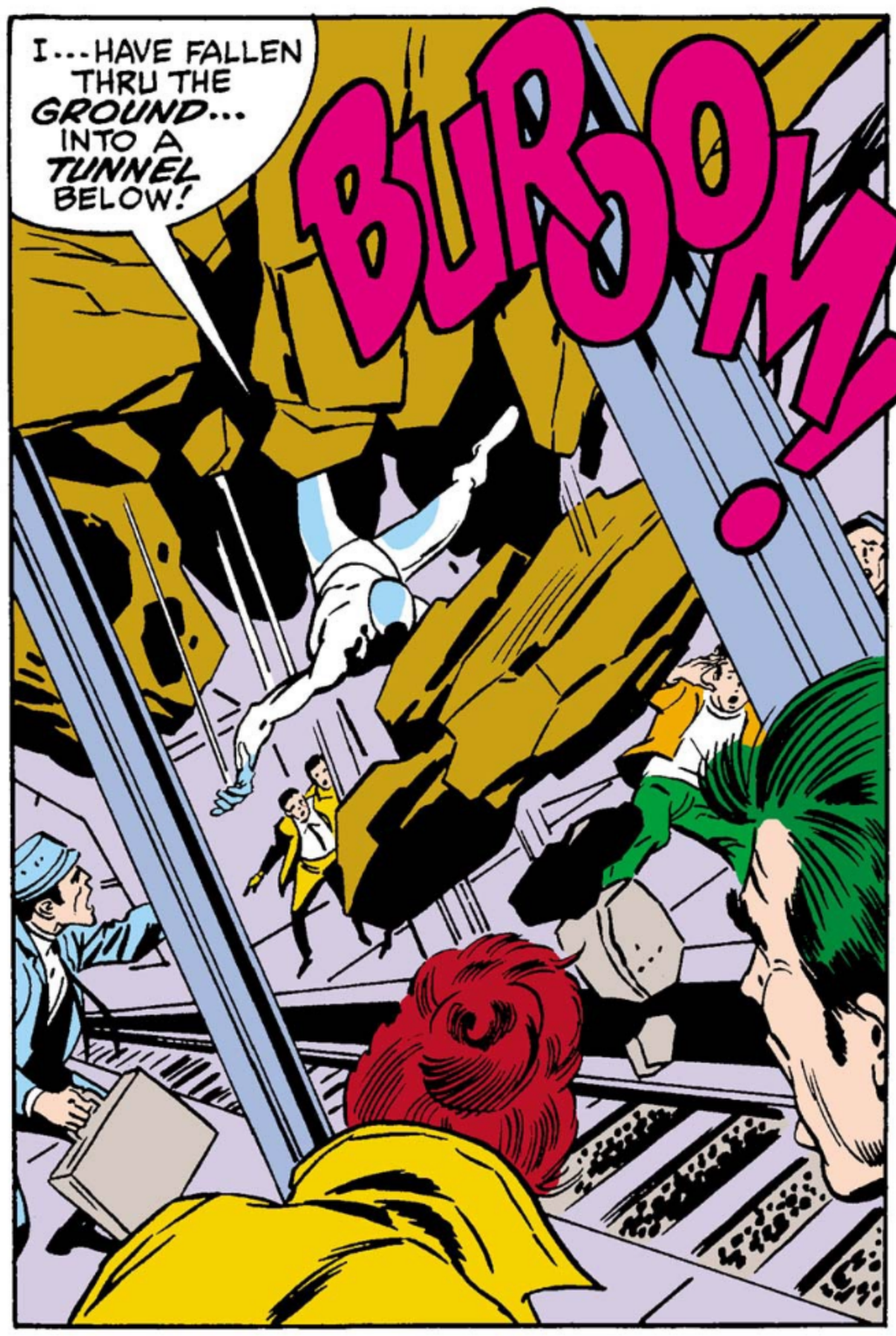

AHH...THERE HE IS...OBLIVIOUS TO MY PRESENCE!
NOW, WHILE HE FOLLOWS... I'LL DRAW HIM FROM THE CITY!


BUT, BEFORE THE SURFER CAN GATHER SPEED...
I'M HIT!
BUT... HOW? MY FOE HAD BEEN BEHIND ME!


WHAT SPORT THIS IS...TO GUIDE THE BATTLE WITHOUT MY PRESENCE BEING KNOWN!
NOW STRIKE, MY HAPLESS GHOST! STRIKE IN THE NAME OF MEPHISTO!

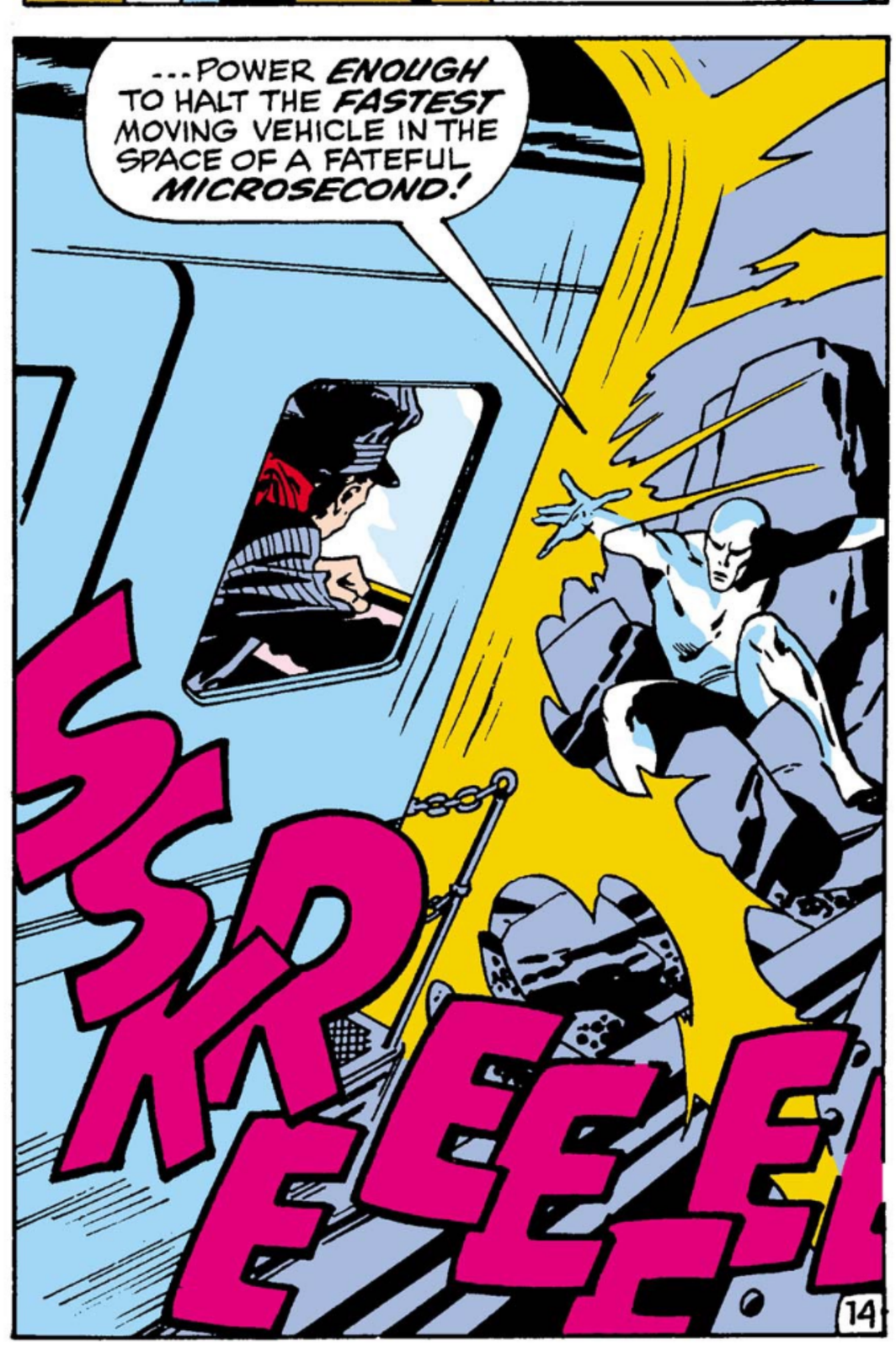
I MUST DEFEAT HIM! I MUST NOT FAIL...IF EVER I AM TO KNOW ETERNAL REST!

SPRAK-K-K-K-K-K

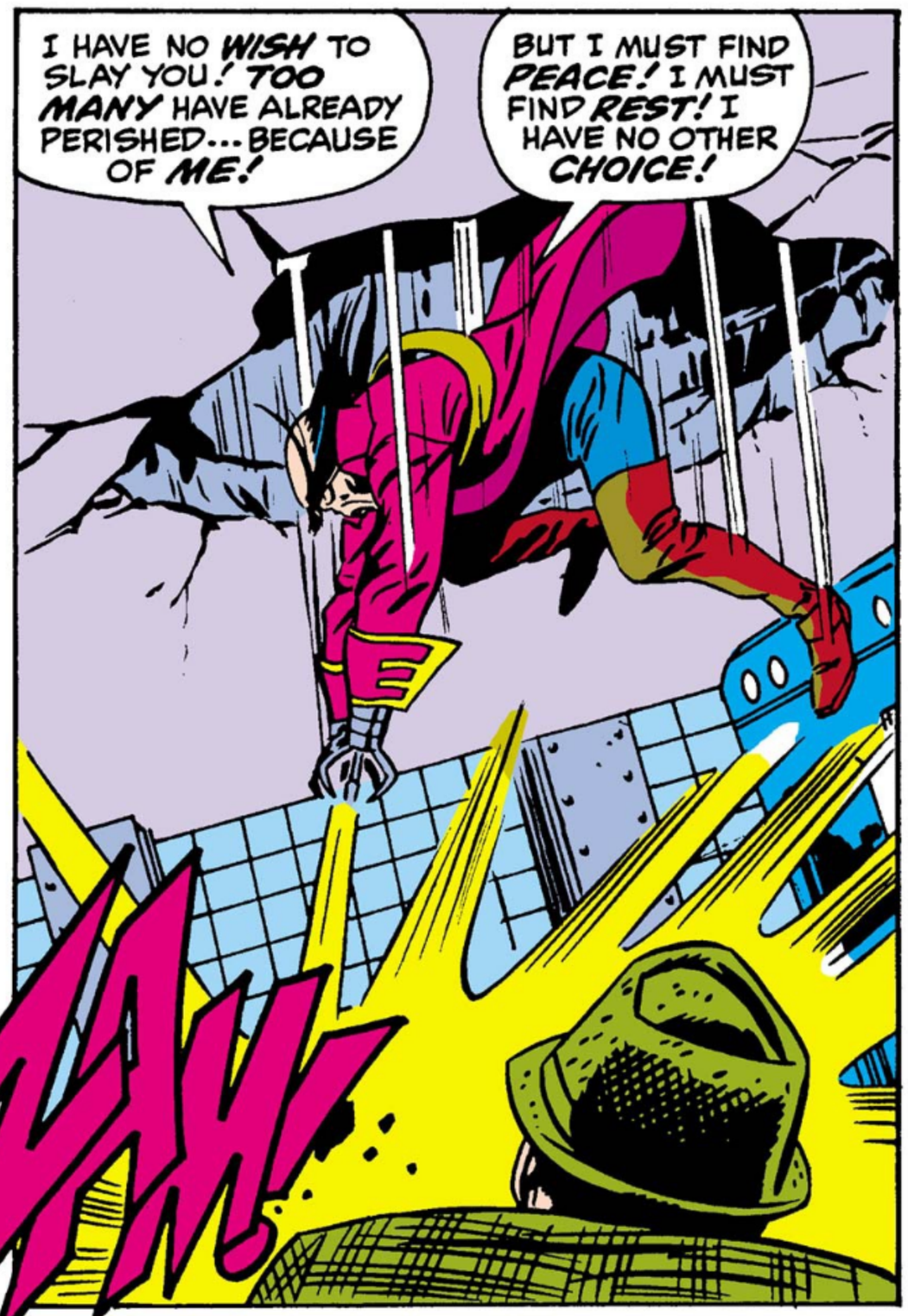

I...HAVE FALLEN THRU THE GROUND... INTO A TUNNEL BELOW!
BURSOM!

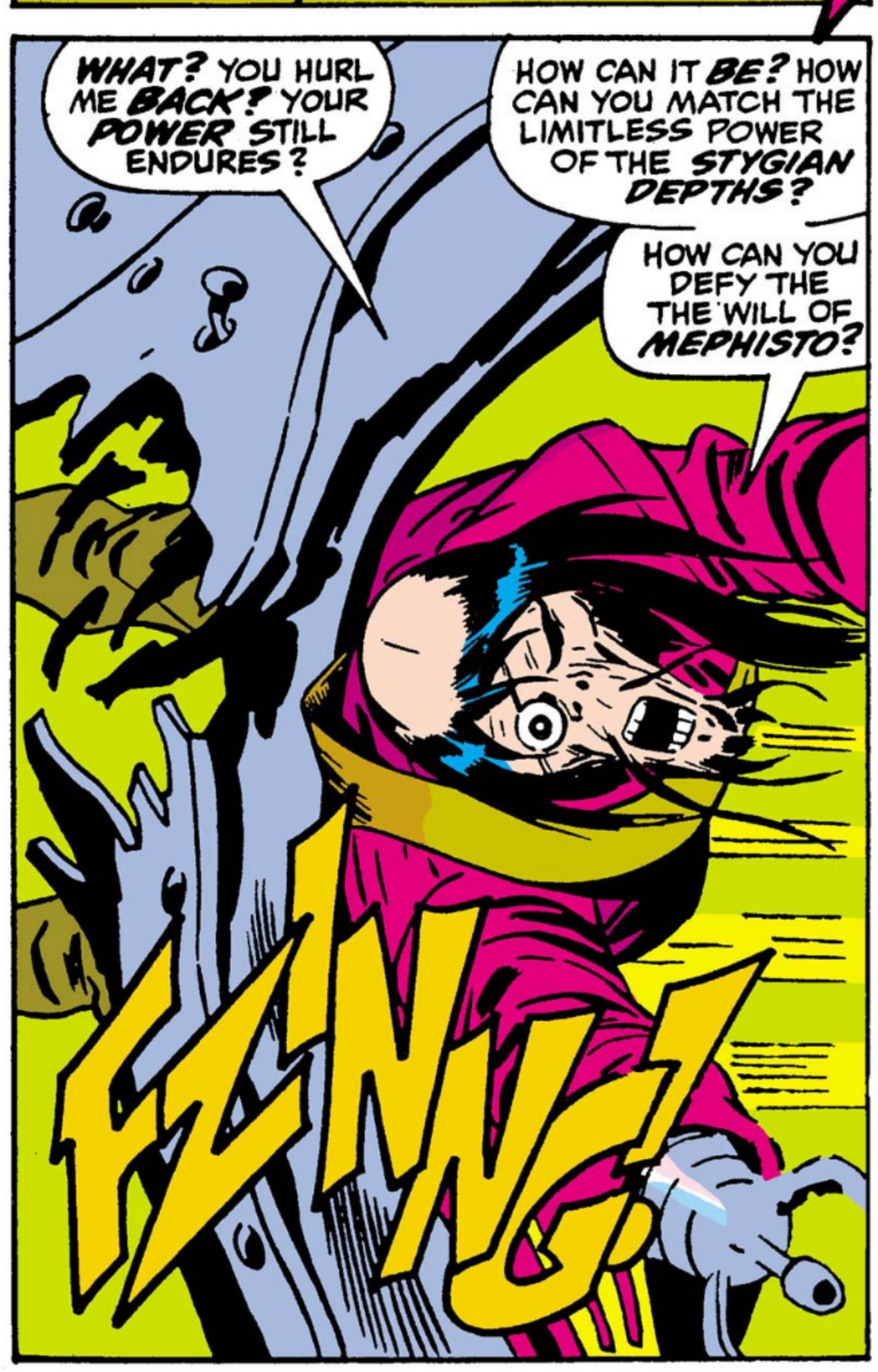
QUICK! GET 'IM OUT OF THERE!
THERE'S A TRAIN PULLING IN!
YOUR HAND, FELLA! GIVE ME YOUR HAND... HURRY!
FOOLS! YOU WILL BE...TOO LATE!
STAND BACK! THERE IS NOT TIME!

SOMEONE LYING ON THE TRACKS AHEAD OF ME!!
AND I CAN'T STOP FAST ENOUGH! I'M GONNA HIT HIM!
NOTHING CAN SAVE ME ---NOTHING... SHORT OF MY OWN COSMIC POWER!


---POWER ENOUGH TO HALT THE FASTEST MOVING VEHICLE IN THE SPACE OF A FATEFUL MICROSECOND!
SSSKREEEEEE

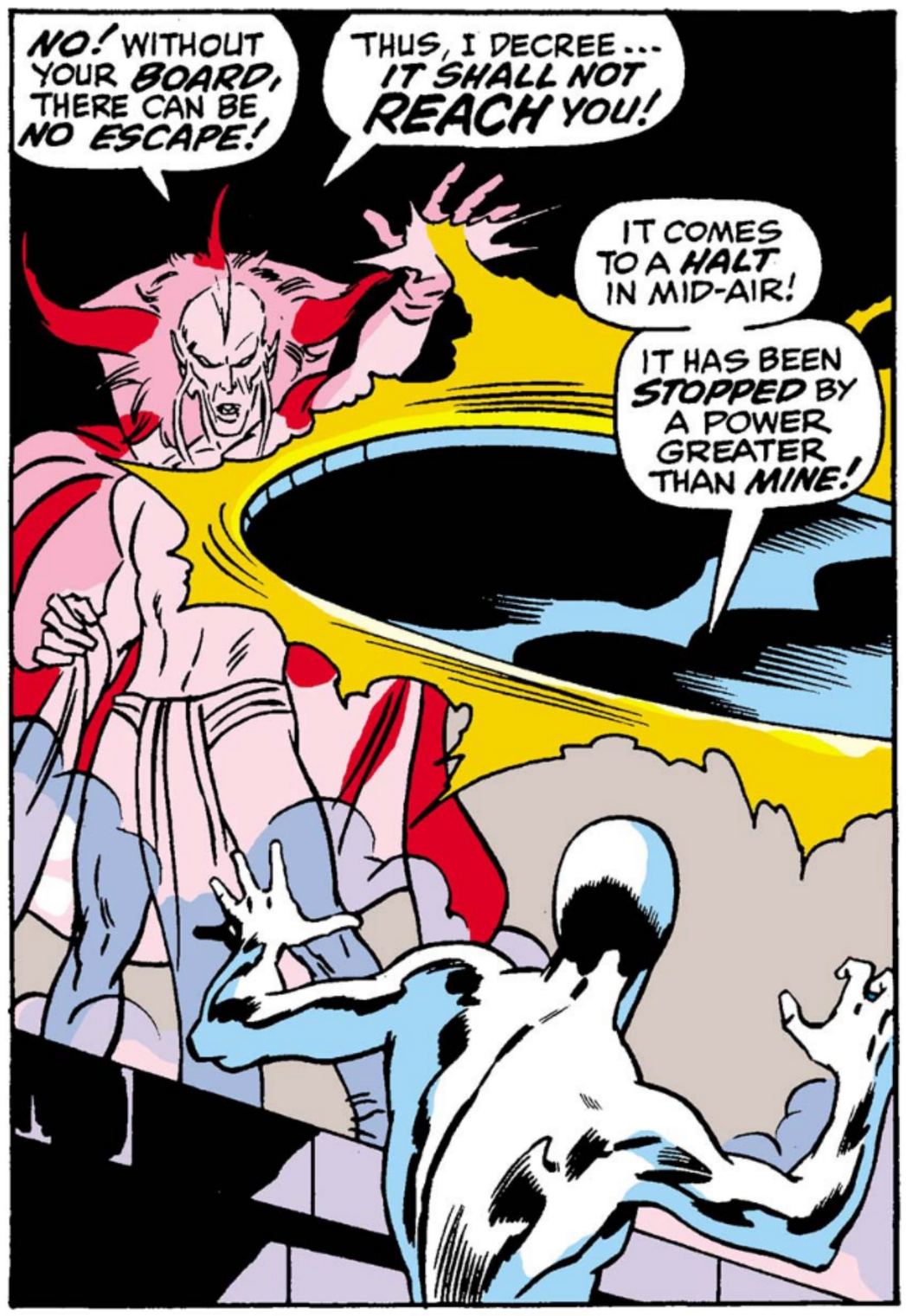
YOU THINK YOU HAVE SAVED YOURSELF... BUT YOU HAVE NOT!
YOU HAVE ONLY POSTPONED THE ULTIMATE FATE WHICH MUST BE YOURS!


I HAVE NO WISH TO SLAY YOU! TOO MANY HAVE ALREADY PERISHED... BECAUSE OF ME!
BUT I MUST FIND PEACE! I MUST FIND REST! I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE!
ZAH!


WHAT? YOU HURL ME BACK? YOUR POWER STILL ENDURES?
HOW CAN IT BE? HOW CAN YOU MATCH THE LIMITLESS POWER OF THE STYGIAN DEPTHS?
HOW CAN YOU DEFY THE THE WILL OF MEPHISTO?
FZNG!

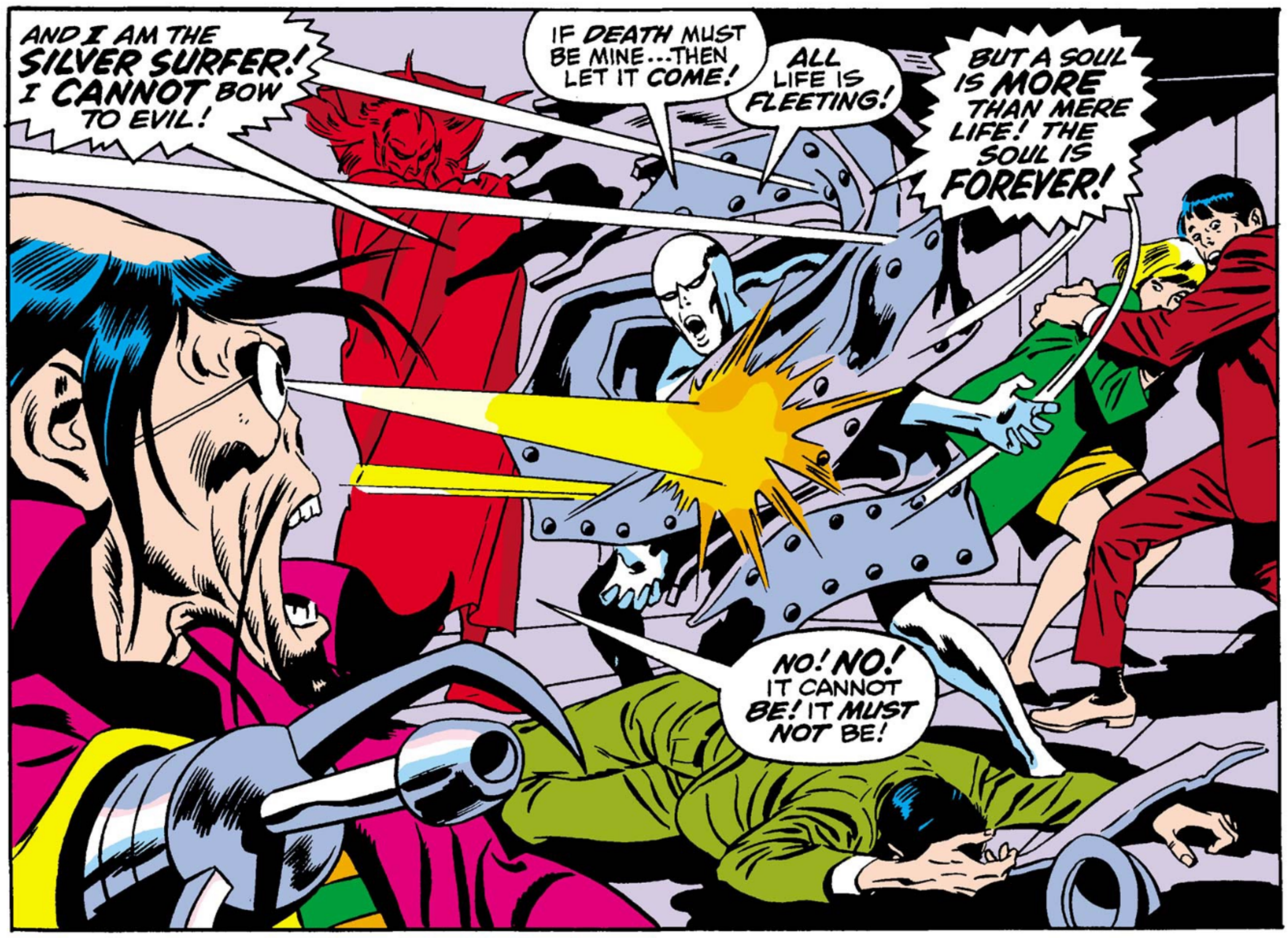
NO MATTER HOW STRONG THE FORCE OF EVIL MAY BE...IT CAN NEVER PREVAIL OVER THAT WHICH IS GOOD!
NO! YOU LIE! YOU LIE! YOU LIE!

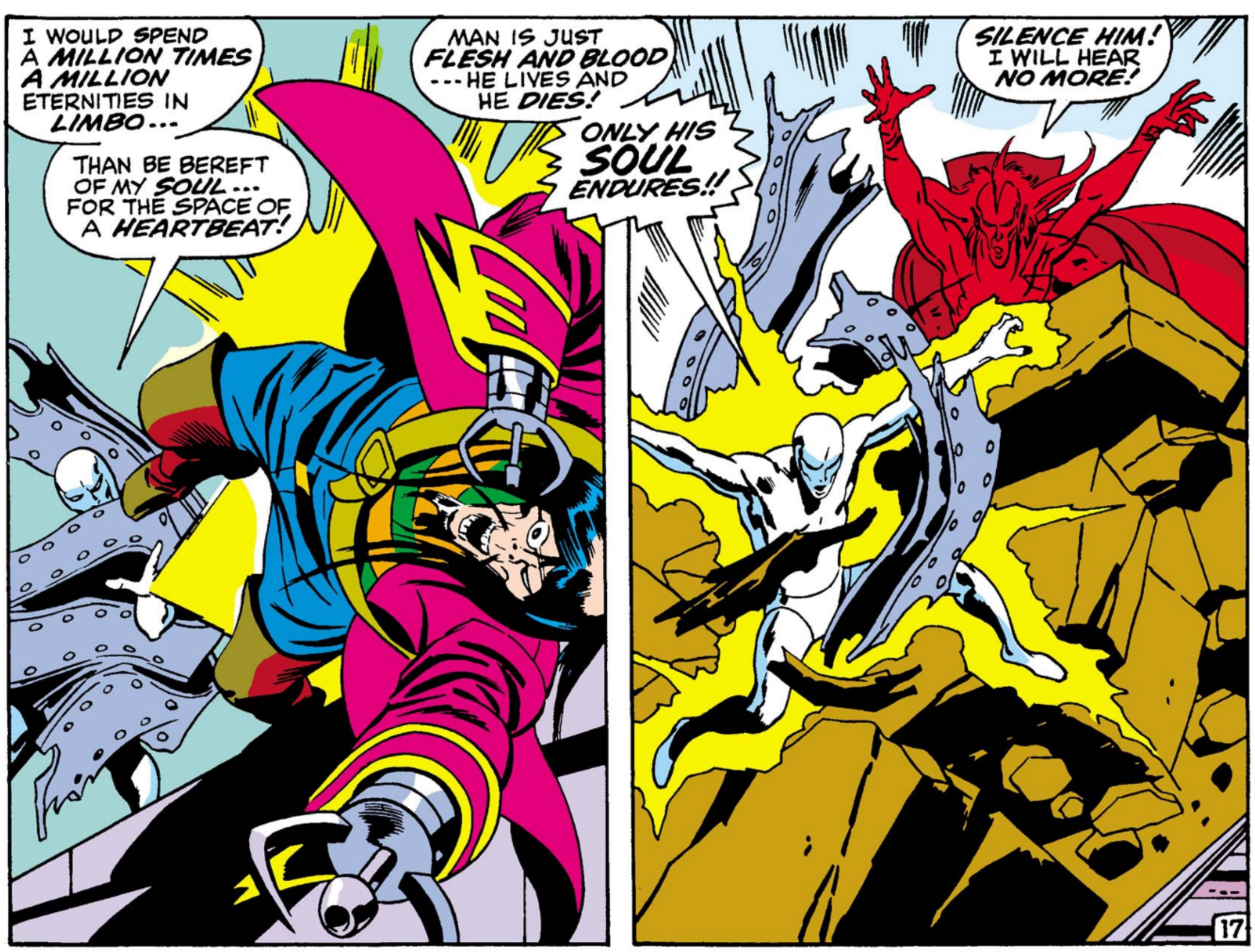
WE SHALL SEE WHAT IS FALSEHOOD ...AND WHAT IS TRUTH!
TO ME, MY BOARD!
THE TIME OF DECISION IS FINALLY UPON US!


NO! WITHOUT YOUR BOARD, THERE CAN BE NO ESCAPE!
THUS, I DECREE... IT SHALL NOT REACH YOU!
IT COMES TO A HALT IN MID-AIR!
IT HAS BEEN STOPPED BY A POWER GREATER THAN MINE!

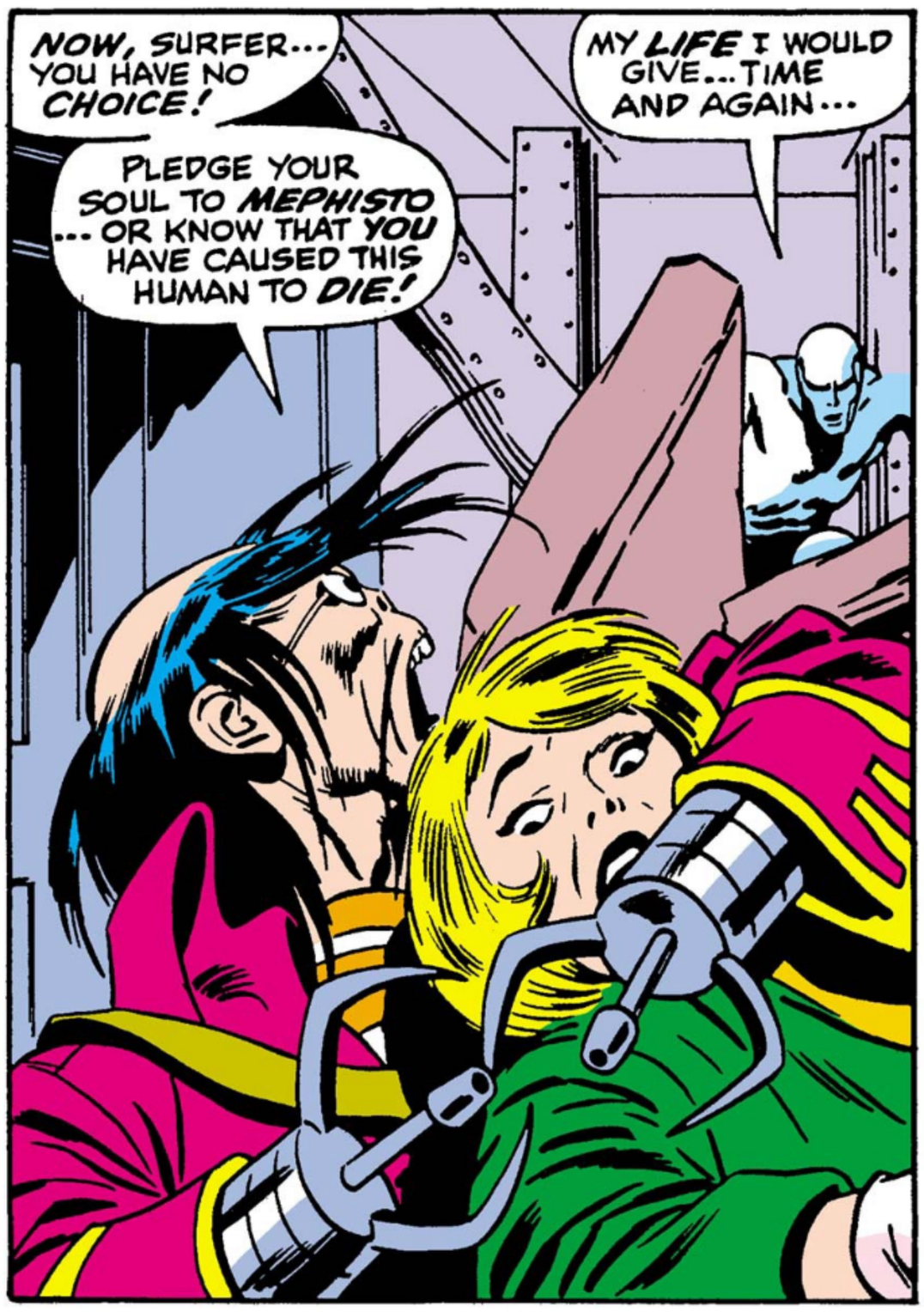
NOW STRIKE, DUTCHMAN... STRIKE!
HE MUST HAVE NO RESPITE ...TILL HE DEEDS ME...HIS SOUL!

HEAR ME, SURFER! LET THIS TRAVESTY END!
PLEDGE HIM YOUR SOUL ...AS I HAVE PLEDGED MINE!
HE IS MEPHISTO! HE CANNOT BE DENIED!


AND I AM THE SILVER SURFER! I CANNOT BOW TO EVIL!
IF DEATH MUST BE MINE...THEN LET IT COME!
ALL LIFE IS FLEETING!
BUT A SOUL IS MORE THAN MERE LIFE! THE SOUL IS FOREVER!
NO! NO! IT CANNOT BE! IT MUST NOT BE!


I WOULD SPEND A MILLION TIMES A MILLION ETERNITIES IN LIMBO...
THAN BE BEREFT OF MY SOUL... FOR THE SPACE OF A HEARTBEAT!
MAN IS JUST FLESH AND BLOOD ---HE LIVES AND HE DIES!
ONLY HIS SOUL ENDURES!!
SILENCE HIM! I WILL HEAR NO MORE!

THE HUMANS! THEY ARE HIS ACHILLES HEEL!
SEIZE ONE! THREATEN ONE! HE WILL SACRIFICE ANYTHING THAT THEY MAY BE SPARED!
NO! NO! HELP ME... HELP!


NOW, SURFER... YOU HAVE NO CHOICE!
MY LIFE I WOULD GIVE... TIME AND AGAIN...
PLEDGE YOUR SOUL TO MEPHISTO ... OR KNOW THAT YOU HAVE CAUSED THIS HUMAN TO DIE!

BUT... YOU ASK ME TOO MUCH.. TOO MUCH!
AND... WHAT OF YOU?? YOU... WHO ONCE WERE HUMAN! YOU.. WHO WALKED THE GREEN EARTH... WHO LIVED, AND BREATHED, AND LOVED!

HAS YOUR HEART GROWN SO COLD... SO UNFEELING..? HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN... UNHHH!
I'LL HEAR NO MORE!
DO AS I ASK... OR THE FEMALE WILL BE NEXT!

THOUGH YOU CAN SURVIVE MY BLASTS... SHE CANNOT!
NOW YIELD! YIELD! YIELD!
HE MEANS IT! HOW CAN I SAVE MY SOUL ...AT THE COST OF AN INNOCENT LIFE??
HOW? HOW? HOW?
THERE MUST BE A WAY! THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY!
THE TREE OF EVIL...EVER CARRIES THE SEED...OF ITS OWN DESTRUCTION!
NOT FOR NOTHING WAS I GRANTED ...MY POWER COSMIC!
NOW I MUST USE IT...AS IT HAS NEVER BEEN USED BEFORE!
FROM THE ENDLESS REACHES OF INFINITE SPACE...
FROM ALL THAT WAS... AND IS...AND SHALL BE EVER...
LET MY POWER BE GATHERED... AND HARNESSED... AND HURLED!
19

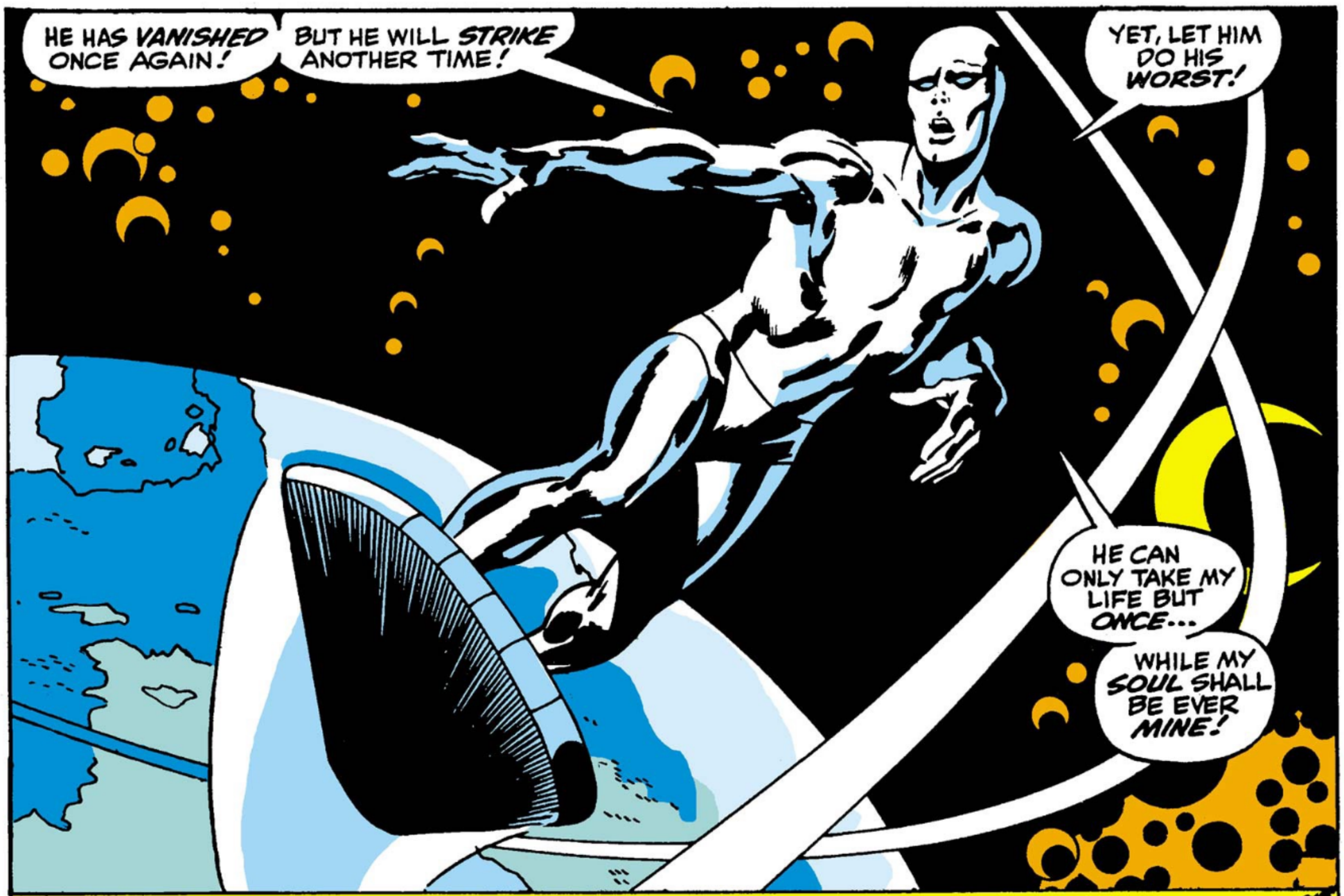
I HAVE DONE IT!
I HAVE STRICKEN THE GHOST ...WITHOUT TOUCHING THE GIRL!
BUT HE HAS DRAINED HIMSELF OF POWER...WHILE I GIVE YOU NEW STRENGTH!
ATTACK ONCE AGAIN...AND THIS TIME... YOU WIN!!

NO, MEPHISTO! HE HAS SHOWN ME... THAT NOT EVEN I... AM BEYOND REDEMPTION!
I RENOUNCE MY PLEDGE! THOUGH I MAY NEVER KNOW REST... I WILL SERVE YOU ...NO MORE!

HEAR ME, VAN STRAATEN! WOULD YOU SPEND ALL ETERNITY ...IN THE EMPTINESS OF LIMBO?

MONARCH OF EVIL... AGAIN YOU HAVE FAILED!
NO! I AM MEPHISTO! I WILL NOT BE DENIED!

THOUGH YOU WERE THE MOST WRETCHED OF ALL WHO LIVED...
IT IS YOU WHO HAVE SACRIFICED MOST!
MAY THE PEACE THAT YOU LONG FOR ...SOME DAY BE YOURS!
YOU... WHOM I TRIED TO DESTROY... YOU PITY ME!



NEXT: TO JOIN THE HUMAN RACE!